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# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 433—VOLUME XXXIX

JANUARY, 1956

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## Member of St. Dunstan's Council Honoured

**C**OLONEL the Hon. J. J. Astor, who was one of the very first members of St. Dunstan's Council, received a Barony in the New Year Honours. Colonel Astor, who joined our Council in 1923, is chairman of The Times Publishing Company and is widely known as a generous benefactor to many good causes. In the early days of the 1939-45 war, he was chairman of St. Dunstan's Research Advisory Committee, which was set up to find new openings for blinded soldiers in industry and commerce. Colonel Astor's honour delights us all.

## Passing of Old Friends

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death, on Christmas Eve, of Miss Edith Wood.

Blind since her childhood, Miss Wood taught typewriting and braille shorthand at the first St. Dunstan's hostel, opened in Bayswater Road by the late Sir Arthur Pearson in February, 1915. She continued as a teacher for many years and subsequently became a member of the staff of the Welfare Department, retiring in September, 1946, after thirty-one years' service.

A wreath from the Chairman and Council of St. Dunstan's was sent for the funeral, at which St. Dunstan's was represented by Miss E. Abbiss and Miss F. M. Sailing.

★ ★ ★

We have also heard with deep regret of the death on December 8th of Mrs. Bessie Argyle, who was from 1935 to 1949 Welfare Visitor for part of the Midlands. Her St. Dunstaner friends, many of whom had continued to keep in touch with her, will grieve at her passing which, however, was peaceful and without pain.

## Mr. Harry Bennett

Mr. Harry Bennett, Home Industries Superintendent, retires from the staff of St. Dunstan's at the end of January after thirty-three years' service.

Mr. Bennett joined the staff in February, 1923, and quickly rose to be Sales Manager, taking charge of the purchase and supply of raw material for our craftsmen and for the sale of their finished products. He was responsible for forming the well-known "St. Dunstan's Gift Club," through which members of the public have purchased our men's goods.

During the early period of World War II, Mr. Bennett took over the additional duties of Industrial Director and was responsible for initiating and carrying through the programme for placing men in appointments and industrial posts. When he relinquished this war-time

job in April, 1947, Sir Ian, speaking of the numbers of World War II St. Dunstaners trained and settled in industry, called it "a magnificent record not surpassed by any other group of severely disabled men. Harry Bennett and his staff were responsible for the majority of these settlements."

With his wide experience, Mr. Bennett then began the task of rebuilding our home industry activities, which had been partially suspended during the war years.

We thank him for his long and devoted service and join with all St. Dunstaners, and particularly his home workers, in wishing him happiness in his retirement.

Mr. Stanley Hall, who has worked with Mr. Bennett for many years, takes over the duties of Home Industries Superintendent.

## Sir Ian Fraser in South Africa

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser have arrived in South Africa, and a correspondent writes that they were looking in the best of health. They had had a splendid voyage and after a brief business visit to Basutoland and Johannesburg, they would be returning to England by sea, arriving early in the new session; the exact date would depend on parliamentary business.

### The Rev. G. L. Treglown's Broadcast

"We found 'Getting Things Right with God' *very* helpful."

D. K.  
"We were very deeply moved . . ."  
E. P.

These are but two of the messages of appreciation we have received of the Rev. G. L. Treglown's broadcast talk, which was reprinted in last month's REVIEW.

St. Dunstaners will be very interested to learn that Mr. Treglown's next "Silver Lining" talk will be on February 9th.

On February 19th a short series of recorded Silver Lining talks will begin and a talk by Mr. Treglown, which he gave on October 27th, will be included in this series. (The talk reprinted in the REVIEW was originally given on September 29th.)

### From Mr. Sherratt

I would offer my sincere thanks for all the expressions of goodwill in my retirement.

During the past 37 years, I have made many friendships with the men of my area and I was delighted to receive the gift of an armchair from them.

It has been a privilege to serve St. Dunstan's, and to all the men in my area and to my colleagues I offer my good wishes for the future.

J. SHERRATT.

## Holiday Fortnights at Ovingdean

I think it is a well proved fact that every St. Dunstaner enjoys meeting old friends with whom he may have been out of touch for many years, even since the days when they were in training together.

In order to give old friends a greater opportunity to meet, we have decided to select two fortnights next year and name them "The 1916 Fortnight" and "The 1917 Fortnight" respectively, and we are inviting any St. Dunstaners who were training during these years to apply for their summer holiday during one of these periods. They are:—

1916 fortnight: From 2nd to 16th June.

1917 fortnight: From 1st to 15th Sept.

St. Dunstaners wishing to take advantage of this idea should write to their Area Superintendent before 31st March, 1956, for a booking.

If it proves to be a popular scheme we will consider whether we can increase the number of special fortnights the following year to enable as many old friends as possible to get together.

The only purpose of this suggestion is to bring old friends together, but of course, any St. Dunstaner can apply for a holiday at Ovingdean whenever he chooses.

## General Holidays at Ovingdean

May I remind St. Dunstaners whose jobs prevent them from taking their holidays at any time other than the period mid-July to mid-August, that priority bookings for these dates will be closed this year on the 30th April. Thereafter all other applications for the remaining beds available will be considered.

C. D. WILLS,  
*Welfare Superintendent.*



## London Club Notes

The scene at the London Club on the night of Tuesday, December 13th, seemed even gayer than usual; some 80 people (St. Dunstaners and their wives) had assembled in the gaily decorated rooms for the Christmas Party. An abundance, and, seemingly, a never ending variety of good things to eat were available to all, and our thanks and congratulations are due to Mrs. Willis and her band of charming lady helpers. The genial Robert (Father Christmas) Willis conducted his usual lucky dip, and each St. Dunstaner received a small gift.

The highlight of the evening, however, was provided by some very talented artists who came along with our old friend, Mr. (Danger, men at work) Brown. They included the celebrated "Star Gazers" Dick Bentley, John Blythe, and the adorable Miss Helene Clare. The accompanist on the piano was the well-known Mr. Bert Witham. They put on a first class show and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our thanks are due in no small measure for the very hard work put in by Bob Willis in organising the whole show.

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who contributed to what was undoubtedly a very successful evening.

SAMMY WEBSTER (*Chairman*).

## Won't You Join the Dance?

A Dance to raise funds for the Lee-on-Solent Camp Fund will be held on Thursday, February 16th, at the Hop Bine Hotel, East Lane, North Wembley (nearest station, North Wembley, L.M.S.), beginning at 7.30 p.m. The Hop Bine Hotel is almost opposite the station.

The Dance is a public one, but the organising committee very kindly invite any St. Dunstaner and escort who would like to attend to do so free of charge.

I might be able to help out with transport if you will let me know that you would particularly like to go.

(Mrs.) AVIS SPURWAY,

The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking.  
Tel. Dorking 73191.

## Weaving Class

I am forming a small class for beginners in weaving, canework, lampshade making and allied crafts at my coachhouse workshop, 52 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, soon. Individual tuition will be given, especially to blind or partially sighted beginners.

MAUREEN LEES.

## Northgate House

### Bookings Announcement

In order to ensure the fairest possible allocation of beds at Northgate House during holiday months, it has been decided to ask parents to submit their applications to their Area Superintendents by the following dates this year:—

*6th February* for periods up to *31st May*.

*31st March* for periods from *1st July* to *30th September*.

Lists of applications will be finally closed on these dates and holiday beds will then be allocated according to the length of time which has elapsed since the child previously had a holiday at the Home. Children of employed men who are obliged to take their holidays during fixed periods will receive priority for these periods, but the above basis will be adopted for selection when there are insufficient beds to meet all requests.

Applications for convalescent periods or other urgent reasons should be made when the need arises and will be given priority according to the urgency of the case.

### Staff Holidays

Northgate House and Port Hall will be closed for staff holidays from Saturday, 2nd June, to Saturday, 30th June, this year.

### Braille Periodicals

Will St. Dunstaners kindly note that all applications for Braille periodicals sent to Mr. Wills in response to his circular dated September, 1955, have now been dealt with and all February numbers of the magazines concerned should have been received by the end of this month.

Any St. Dunstaner who has not received the periodicals ordered should contact Mr. Wills at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1, as a few of the order forms were returned without the name and address of the sender appended.

Any St. Dunstaners who have never ordered braille periodicals but are interested in receiving them should write to Mr. Wills for an order form.

### Good Wishes from France

"Hearty good wishes for Christmas and good luck in New Year from the blinded soldiers of France to Sir Ian Fraser and all St. Dunstaners."

(Signed) ISAAC.

AMBLARD.

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

T. Floyd's analysis of fictional character creation in your December issue made interesting reading, and I would like to add punch to his remark, "A St. Dunstan's training," and his paraphrase, "There, but for the foresight of Sir Arthur, go I," by relating the following.

One day, whilst spending a holiday with one of my sisters, she and her married daughter had to go out on business, in the course of which they encountered a civilian blind man. My sister was so affected by this meeting that, on returning home, she began to declaim on that "poor blind man," adding the adjectives and appendixes connected with that trite phrase. I was beginning to feel more than a little irritated by this lament when my niece tactfully broke it up with the announcement that as she had so much to do she would have to go. As she departed, I resumed my reading, thinking, "Well, that's that." But I was wrong, for next morning at breakfast she returned to the subject with "Oh dear, I wish I hadn't seen that blind man yesterday. I've hardly slept all night thinking about him." I thought what you need is a sedative, and I'm going to give you one, so, turning to her, I said, "Mary, just take a look at your brother; totally blind, more than half deaf and a gamey leg," to which she replied, "Yes, I know all that, Tommy, but you're different." I took that short half-arm jolt flush on the chin and went down for the count.

Yours sincerely,  
T. ROGERS, *Huddersfield*.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been in two London hospitals, one where I had two operations and was under two specialists and four doctors, and the other where I was under a specialist and two doctors. But there has been nobody to come up to Dr. O'Hara at Ovingdean, as he has been the only doctor who has been able to get me on my feet twice in succession—and I think he is a marvel.

And I also wish to thank Matron Ramshaw and all the medical and V.A.D. staff at Ovingdean.

Yours sincerely,  
S. A. WORLIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to place on record the deep gratitude felt by my mother and I to the Matron and the Sick Ward staff at St. Dunstan's, West House, Brighton, for the great devotion and care shown to my late uncle, George Morecroft, a West House man for a number of years.

Yours very sincerely,  
PETER MORECROFT.

## From the Chairman's Post-bag

Regarding your notes on listening to the radio, I am sure you are perfectly right, for I have tried it and I find if I sit absolutely in front of the set I get every word clear and correct.

F. C. FLEETWOOD, *Brighton*.

I dislike listening to the human voice being muted. It also gives me a nerve strain to listen to a loudspeaker shouting at me from the other side of the room, but it does not always fit in with the other furnishings to have the wireless set or Talking Book directly in front of you. To overcome this I have placed the set on a small table at the head of my bed, where I can turn on the news in the morning or late at night. From the set I have taken some neat flex wire to two of the rooms we use and have purchased a neat, small loudspeaker for each room quite near to where I usually sit. I have fitted volume controls on them so that when anything is broadcast which is distasteful to me I can turn it down or off without moving from the chair.

G. M. JORDAN, *Hove*.

I always sit as nearly as possible directly in front of the talking book or radio set. As to tone adjustment, I invariably have the tone control at maximum high tone, but for Talking Book I adjust as near to the deep maximum as possible, compatible with clear speech, in order to reduce needle noise.

T. FLOYD, *Teignmouth*.

★ ★ ★

J. Doubler, of Hove, was top prize winner of West Hove Pigeon Flying Club and winner of "Old and Combined Averages"; he had the first, second and third from Bordeaux (winning by 14 hours); first, second and fourth from Guernsey; third, fourth and fifth from Nantes; third and fourth from Marrennes; second from Christchurch, and first from Seaton.



## Manchester Club

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held at Red Cross House, Pendleton, on Friday, 16th December, 1955, when the following elections for 1956 were made: Mr. J. Shaw as Chairman, Mr. W. Bramley as Vice-Chairman, Mrs. E. M. Dunphy as Secretary, Miss E. Hill as Treasurer.

The Statement of Accounts, which showed the Club to be quite solvent, was submitted and approved.

Unanimous votes of thanks were extended to Mrs. Dunphy, Secretary, and Miss Hill, Treasurer, for their admirable help to the Club during 1956. Also to all our ladies for their valuable assistance throughout the year, with particular mention of Mrs. McCarthy, who supervised their activities.

On Saturday, December 17th, we held our Christmas Party, and for this purpose we hired a very suitable and cosy room at the Palace Restaurant. Members present with their wives and escorts, together with invited guests, numbered about forty, and we all enjoyed a full Christmas dinner served in grand style.

At this party many gifts were distributed to holders of lucky tickets, and the Club derived substantial financial help from efforts particularly reserved for this occasion.

Special thanks to Mrs. Shaw for the proceeds of her painstaking work in making a beautiful patchwork quilt and a pair of hand-embroidered cushion covers. Thanks also to Charlie Clarke, son of our member Arnold (Nobby) Clarke, for his continued help towards the financial needs of the Club. This valuable help by kind friends should encourage members to keep up their attendances at Club meetings during 1956.

"MANCUNIAN."

## Mink Breeder's Success

At the Hudson Bay Fur Company's Annual Show on December 16th and 17th, Squadron Leader Bell, of Newbury, "swept the board." He collected five out of ten cups and eight Class Champions. He was particularly gratified at exhibiting the "Supreme Champion Live Mink," a "standard" mink competing in a class of 750, and also the "Supreme Champion Pelt," a white pelt in a class of 840. He also gained the Hudson Bay Trophy for the greatest number of awards decided on a points system. His points were over 100; the runner-up secured only fifty.

Our St. Dunstaner has been for some time Chairman of the Fur Breeders' Association.

## Size of Braille Magazines

Sir Ian having received the suggestion from one or two St. Dunstaners, including particularly Frank Rhodes, that the "Braille Mail" and the "National News Letter" should be published in the same format as "Nuggets," passed the suggestion on to the R.N.I.B. An official reply from Mr. J. C. Colligan, Secretary General of the R.N.I.B., is as follows:—

DEAR SIR IAN,

You wrote to me a few days ago passing on the suggestion that had been made to you that the "Braille Mail" and the "National News Letter" might be more acceptable if they were published in the overall shape and size of "Nuggets."

I have had this considered in the office and our Editorial and Production staff seem to agree that pocket plates are much more difficult to plan than full size plates, and particularly in the case of the "Braille Mail," where the numerous headings would make such an edition more precarious as regards the set out and spacing, with a greater risk of blanks. It is also considered by the experts that a pocket format for the "Braille Mail" and the "National News Letter" would not prove any more portable as the reduced length of the page would merely lead to an increased bulk.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. COLLIGAN.

## The Bible Reading Fellowship

A generous subscriber to St. Dunstan's has donated three brailled volumes of The Bible Reading Fellowship—Series B, and any St. Dunstaners who would be interested in owning these should write to Mr. Wills by the end of January. A ballot will then be held to decide to whom they should be given.

## Golden Weddings

Many congratulations upon their Golden Wedding anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, of Wirral (December 23rd) and to Mr. and Mrs. G. Grocott, of Walsall (December 28th).

## Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, of Rottingdean, December 11th. Congratulations.

## Silver Weddings

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Walker, of Portslade, whose silver wedding was on December 26th, and to Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Rand, of Addlestone, whose anniversary was on January 1st.

## Between Ourselves

Since the remarks in the October issue headed "To See Ourselves" have provoked some correspondence, it may do no harm to add a few more observations. For instance, we are often credited with having a "sixth sense," but I have never discovered mine. I suppose the truth is that we simply have to make better use of our remaining faculties, especially touch and hearing, so that they become more acute.

I wonder whether it is true that those of us who have just a glimmer of sight, like looking through frosted glass, are worse off than those who have no sight at all? Although one would hate to lose that tiny gleam, it has seemed to me that the others have more confidence and are not so dependent upon changing conditions of light and shadow. There is little doubt in my mind that those who lose their sight in childhood gain certain advantages over those who go through the experience in later life. It seems to me that in the early days we were encouraged to think that we were rather a superior kind of blind person, doubtless in the interest of morale, but when I came into close contact with young students who had been educated in a blind school, I was quickly disabused of this idea because of their remarkable sense of direction, their facility in braille, etc.

There is a certain amount of false sentiment about blindness. I remember a line of song that used to be sung even at St. Dunstan's, which went like this: "God who took away my sight that my soul might see." Does it follow that the loss of sight automatically leads to increased spiritual vision? I doubt it, though, of course, it could happen. There was also a sickly song which ran, "I am but a poor blind boy," and ended something like this, "And to me they are kind, They pity me because I'm blind." I should certainly pity any blind boy who felt like that, but for another reason. Whatever faults we may have, and doubtless they are many, I trust that self-pity is not one of them.

I expect most of us have been greeted by a new acquaintance with "I should never have known you were blind if I hadn't been told. You are so natural." I wonder how genuine such a remark is, or whether it is merely a desire to say something to please. Most of us, I imagine, are susceptible to this form of

flattery. I once met a man who said he had been to a lecture about the care and training of blind people. He said he was feeling a bit depressed because he had never before realised what a handicap it was to have his sight.

On one occasion four of us were travelling up from Brighton by train and, when we reached Victoria, the only other occupant of the carriage asked if he could be of any help. At once one of our number recognised him as a well-known broadcaster and asked if it was Mr. So-and-so. It was, and it appeared that he had been impressed by our facility in managing our cigarettes and pipes, and conducting a more or less intelligent conversation between ourselves. At any rate, he wrote an article in a woman's journal shortly afterwards, in which he seemed to think it worth while to recount the incident and to give a fair summary of what we had been discussing. So it seems we cannot do the most ordinary things without being wonderful! Perhaps fame is cheap at the price. S. A. CHAMBERS.

## Christmas Competition Result

"Oh what a tangled web we weave . . ." but honestly, it wasn't intended to deceive quite so much.

The list in the Editor's office was as follows:—

1. TOTTENHAM (ten—a number).
2. MANCHESTER (chest—part of the body).
3. BURNLEY (urn—a receptacle).
4. DONCASTER (cast—number of people—on a platform perhaps).
5. SOUTHEND (out—cricket term).
6. ACCRINGTON (ring—something that looks round).

No competitor had all six teams right, but Sammy Webster, of Forest Hill, had five correct. It has therefore been decided, instead of the three one guinea prizes, to award Sammy one guinea and to give half a guinea each to the four whose entries gave the highest number of correct hidden words, although the teams were not the correct ones. They were: J. S. Hodgson, of Fotheringhay; G. L. Douglas, of Isleworth; A. S. Emerson, of Great Clacton; and W. Wrigley, of Droylesden, Manchester, all of whom had five.

And although we appreciated their ingenuity, we really couldn't consider those competitors who gave every possible alternative in one entry!



## Liverpool Club

The Liverpool Club Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 10th, at the Headquarters of the British Legion, Central Branch, and was, as always, the happiest and jolliest event of the year. At 4.45 p.m. prompt, over sixty members, wives and their families, along with our guests of honour, Miss B. Vaughan Davies and Miss Doel, and a party of friends from Pleasington, headed by our St. Dunstaner, Bob Britton, sat down to enjoy an excellent tea, after which our President, Captain Halloway, proposed a Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen, Duke of Lancaster. Then everyone settled down to enjoy the high spot of the evening being, of course, the very excellent entertainment provided by Mr. J. C. Reason and his friends. This was loudly applauded and appreciated by all.

Miss B. Vaughan Davies then presented, on behalf of the Club, prizes to the winners and runners-up of our Club Competitions and those of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions, after which she distributed Christmas presents to the children. This being concluded, the floor was cleared for dancing, in which everyone joined, the music for which was provided by Mr. E. Owen, son of our St. Dunstaner, J. C. Owen. The evening came to a close with all joining hands for "Auld Lang Syne."

It was regretted that Mrs. Dunphy could not be with us owing to other commitments.

T. MILNER.

## Birmingham Club

There was a good attendance at the Children's Party at the Club on December 18th, twenty-two St. Dunstaners being present, as well as some thirty children. There were films for the children while the adults talked; then we all had tea and Father Christmas came along and, with gusto, gave each child a gift. There were games for the St. Dunstaners, and the prizes, including the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial prizes, were presented afterwards.

To everyone's delighted surprise, Mrs. Spurway, the Club's founder and very good friend, had travelled from Surrey in dreadful weather to be present.

Mr. Cooling is still a tremendous tower of strength to the Birmingham Club, and our thanks go out to him and to all our other willing helpers and good friends there.

## Talking Book Library

### Diverting December

My New Year's resolution to use only honey-laden words leads only to—what? Quite correct—you have it in one—the usual bee column! Of the five books released, two are breathless adventure, one romantic adventure, one indeterminate, and one "ladies only!"

"The Island of Sheep," by John Buchan, reader Donald Bissett, depicts a middle-aged Richard Hannay fulfilling a vow of his youth by coming to the aid of a Dane threatened by blackmailers. Fortune favours the brave and provides breathless adventure for the young in heart. *Cat. No. 944.*

"The Vicar of Wakefield," by Oliver Goldsmith, reader Donald Bissett, is a little pearl of 18th-century melodrama. Romantic adventure of the "Sir Jasper, little Nell" type pulverises the vicar's family until a happy outcome sweeps all troubles away. *Cat. No. 30.*

"People of the Mist," by Rider Haggard, reader Redvers Kyle, is breathless adventure indeed. Leonard Outram, younger son of a bankrupt deceased baronet, is in darkest Africa to restore the family fortunes. With his servant, a dwarf Zulu, he begins by rescuing a damsel from a bloodthirsty horde of slave-traders, single-handed. That is but a curtain-raiser to the main treasure hunt. Utter enthralling fantasy, in which Leonard fails lamentably to rebuild the family fortune but succeeds beyond his wildest dreams. *Cat. No. 945.*

"The Winged Horse," by Pamela Frankau, reader Redvers Kyle, I fail completely to categorise. It is a patch of rather sophisticated real life taken almost at random from the life of a newspaper magnate. The intrusion of an American cartoonist and the sudden withdrawal of his son, together with the delayed honesty of a sculptor causes all the ripples on the magnate's otherwise calm pond. I am baffled to know whether I liked it or no—savour it for yourself! *Cat. No. 946.*

"Jane and Prudence," by Barbara Pym, reader Marjorie Anderson, is most definitely the book for "ladies only." Jane, the reckless wife of a clergyman, was at Oxford with Prudence some 20 years previously when the study of 17th-century poets occupied her mind. At present Jane is trying to match-make for the man-hungry Prudence with but little success. *Cat. No. 544.*

"NELSON."

## News from Overseas

In an interesting letter to Headquarters, Elmer Glew, of Victoria, Australia, writes:

"Bill Sands is still keeping very well indeed and gets out regularly to his home in Bentleigh, as well as on many other outings, in his own car. He still makes macrame bags and does wicker-work occasionally as orders demand; he is a very keen football and cricket enthusiast, and always very bright, chirpy and cheery to all about him.

For my part, in a few words I am always kept busy with general activities, and now that I am in the chair of my Masonic Lodge I will have a very busy twelve months.

We of the Victoria Bowls Club had a very interesting and delightful week at Albury. We came back very happy and somewhat weary, as it is always a strenuous time for us. We played three games in Albury, also at Wondiongga, Wagga, Culclain and Corowa."

★ ★ ★

Mrs. F. Farrell, wife of J. Farrell, of Queensland, Australia, writes that their son is away now for five years. He is a Christian Brother, and their grandson—their daughter's eldest son—shortly goes away to study also for the priesthood.

★ ★ ★

David E. Williams, of Brisbane, Queensland, an ex-P.O.W. in Malaya, who was a farmer before he enlisted, writes:

"The last year has been a very busy one for me. Full time lectures at the University (as a student), marking two hundred political science essays for the University, giving tutorials in that subject at one of the Colleges as well as private instruction. In between times I had to write a thesis for my B.A. Honours in Philosophy. When the results came to hand they gave me a Distinction in Political Science II and First Class Honours in Philosophy.

I have spent the holidays giving a helping hand to my next door neighbours, two ladies. It included painting the ceilings and walls of a couple of bedrooms. You would have been tickled pink had you been there to see the goings on. But we finished the job to the satisfaction of everybody, mine not the least."

From Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, comes a letter from A. R. Mallory, who writes:—

"I am still busy with canteen work and short-wave receiving is improving. I have

recently spoken to stations in Germany, Holland, Spain and Manchester on 10 metres. I read in a recent edition of the REVIEW that A. V. Law had recently gone on the air, call letters G. 3 KNE. I hope to contact him some day.

We had an extremely hot summer this year, which was a good excuse for me to go fishing, which I thoroughly enjoy.

Please remember me to all St. Dunstaners through the REVIEW."

★ ★ ★

In a letter from Mrs. A. F. May, of Victoria, Australia, we regretted to learn that her husband had recently had an accident. He is a very keen fisherman and while fishing in the dam, a bough broke, he lost his footing and fell across the handle of a scoop. He broke a rib and badly bruised himself. He was still not fit when Mrs. May wrote shortly after Christmas.

Mrs. May adds: "We had an unusually cool Christmas this year and I did appreciate it as, despite weather, we have the traditional hot dinner."

★ ★ ★

"The Australian Women's Weekly," a wonderful journal of eighty pages, devoted one of its pages recently to our St. Dunstaner, F. Elliott, of Kingsford, New South Wales.

It described the household equipment he had invented for his four grandchildren. They include a folding wooden structure that transforms a single bed into a cot; and a child's high chair (including a feeding tray) made from an ordinary kitchen chair. The article was well illustrated and a great tribute to our St. Dunstaner's workmanship and ingenuity.

★ ★ ★

## College Reunion

As announced last month, it is hoped to hold a fourth College Reunion, this time at Bedford College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, on Saturday, April 21st, 1956. The cost will be 15s. for lunch and tea.

If you are interested, will you please let "Scotty" know without delay. It is up to you whether a Reunion is held or not. His address is W. T. Scott, 46 Leigham Avenue, S.W.16.

★ ★ ★

H. Bridgman, of Allenton, Derby, has been elected to the Service Committee of the local branch of the British Legion.



## Elephants—Some Memories

In the early summer of 1914, I was the guest of a Rajah of a small State in Northern India. The Rajah was a young man and an enthusiastic sportsman. For this purpose he maintained a stable of some fifteen elephants. These animals were employed principally for the Big Game hunt and for State occasions. They had also been taught to play football, using a push ball. I think I am right in saying that it was only in this State that this thrilling game was played and I think I am correct in saying that I am one of the few Europeans who have participated in the game.

The game was played with five elephants a side, and it was really wonderful to see these monsters kicking, and even passing, the ball to each other. Fortunately they never charged each other. I might not be writing this if they had. The rider sat on the neck of the elephant and he was expected to guide the animal by digging his heel into the right or left side of his face according to the direction he wanted his mount to go. But Jumbo never needed any help in that direction. As the game progressed, one could hear excited noises coming from below. What a spectacle it was!

There was a great Hindu feast and a special game was staged for the guests. The players were lined up facing each other, the ball in the centre. Two huge monsters charged the ball—it collapsed like a pricked balloon. Somebody had forgotten to put padding on the elephants' tusks!

Sometimes the Rajah would invite me to sit with him when the elephants had their evening meal. The fifteen animals would be lined up; before them their dinner—some forty *chapattis* (a flat round bread made of unhusked wheat) heaped up before each diner, the second course consisting of a large pile of sugar cane. There is a story told of an elephant whose *mahout* (keeper) had been systematically robbing him. Every day Jumbo would lift each *chappati* in his trunk and weigh it. The quantity was correct but the *chappati* was lighter in weight. One day, in an absent-minded moment, Jumbo gave his *mahout* a playful blow across the head. There was a vacancy for another keeper.

When a shoot was arranged, we would start off very early in the morning in cars

to the verge of the jungle where the elephants would be awaiting us. We would then mount the elephants either by grasping the top of his ears, or from the rear by catching hold of his tail. Jumbo would do the rest either by lifting his mount on to his back by placing his trunk for him to rest his foot on, or from the rear by lifting him by raising his hind leg under the mount's foot and again gently placing him on his back. No ladders were used or needed. So we would go through the jungle until we reached our destination where the "beaters" were waiting for us.

Besides the elephants there was the Naughty Nautch for entertaining the guests of this wonderful host—"but that," as Kipling would say, "is another story."

D. F. C. MCALPIN, *Chelsea, S.W.10.*

## Cardiff Club

We all enjoyed our Christmas party immensely, the principal feature being an excellent variety show lasting an hour and a half, given voluntarily by first class artists. We were indebted to our chairman, Mr. Jack Caple and his friends, who arranged the show.

January competition winners:—

Dominoes: Mr. P. Blackmore and Mr. A. Palfrey.

Cribbage: Mr. J. Caple, Mr. J. Henn.

Darts: Mr. T. Selby, Mr. A. Palfrey.

Darts (Ladies): Mrs. A. Palfrey.

We are informed by Captain Prince, of the South Wales British Legion, that Sir Ian Fraser will be unable to visit us in February as planned, as he will be convalescing in South Africa. We wish Sir Ian "bon voyage" and a speedy recovery, and we hope to welcome him to Cardiff at some future date.

A. CARTWRIGHT.

## National Laying Test, 1955-56

Report for the first period of four weeks,  
November 8th to December 5th, 1955

	Score	Value
1. George Cooke ... ..	224	
2. P. Bagwell ... ..	210	
3. P. Holmes ... ..	200	
4. W. Webb ... ..	171	
5. W. A. Smith ... ..	170	
6. J. Dix ... ..	125	
Average number of eggs per bird per month, 14.50.		
Average number of eggs per bird to date, 31.44.		



### Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie Jordan, Mitcham, has won the Tennis (Singles) Tournament Cup at his place of work for 1955.

★ ★ ★

Shirley Woofenden, a fine fencer at nineteen is in the Leicestershire County team.

★ ★ ★

Norman Hunt, Hove, who is studying at Oxford, took the lead in a recent stage production and had some excellent notices.

★ ★ ★

Ian Wooldridge, Carlisle (he has lost both his parents) has passed his Intermediate Piano examination with a first class pass.

★ ★ ★

Malcolm Reed, Kingston, has completed his training with the Infantry Boys' Battalion at Plymouth, and has entered the Regular Army, on man's service, at the age of 17½. He has gone into his father's old regiment, The Rifle Brigade, Prince Consort's Own (the "Greenjackets").

★ ★ ★

Valerie Shread, King's Lynn, has passed her first nursing examination with a first in nursing, fourth in anatomy, fifth in hygiene, fourth in the School.

★ ★ ★

Ian Marsden, Alderholt, has won the Small Bore Rifle Shooting Cup of the Alderholt Rifle Club for the second year in succession.

### Marriage

On December 17th, John Rickaby, Battersea, to Miss Violet Peters.

### Winter's Reign

*Winter's white lips blow the funeral notes*

*As the old year is laid in memory.*

*And winter's ice heart reveals no grief,*

*His cold breeze chills the final pageantry.*

*His loveless, frigid eye meets new year born,*

*With stared contempt for interfering mirth,*

*But rocks the cradle with his freezing hand*

*And thus, the infant gathers daily girth.*

*This monarch's retinue of changing moods*

*Has beauty's lines, at times severity,*

*In rimed formation of fantastic shape*

*With ermine cloak and grandeur'd dignity.*

*His passions rage in blizzard's camouflage,*

*His fury breaks on unsuspecting dawn,*

*An iron grip imprisons waterways,*

*And man's opposing enterprise earns scorn.*

*While he is crowned his face is sternly set,*

*And frowns on snowtime's youthful rioting,*

*But children's healthy disregard of him*

*Hastens his abdication to the Spring.*

JOHN CRUSE.

### Cracker Time in West House

Christmas festivities in West House went off with a bang and it was a "hum-dinger" all the way. They began with a visit from Mr. Percy Edwards—the Bird Man of radio fame. On different occasions came choirs from the V.A.D. cadets at Pevensey, and also from our Padre's church.

After breakfast on Christmas morning came a glass of wine and gift-giving by Commandant and Matron.

At dinner time in an atmosphere of gay laughter, merry chatter and easy badinage, amidst pleasing decorations and surroundings, and a happy staff all merry and bright, Dr. O'Hara popped in to wish us a "Happy Bismuth."

After dinner, with Mr. Welfare at the piano, came a musical interlude, chorus singing and songs by Mr. Dick Newman and Mr. Billie Hindes, and a slap-dash Harlequinade with Mrs. Barden, Miss Black and Winnie Stanning. On Boxing Day morning there was a coach ride and free refreshment, thanks to Mrs. Barden's bountiful friend.

Escorts were invited to tea, and men from Ovingdean came to play whist. There were parties to the Hippodrome, a Domino Tournament with Toc H men, who entertained us after the games.

On the last day of the old year, Ovingdean's show, "In Town To-night," was played back to us over the radio. Well done, Ovingdean. Good show! Then came the grand finale with a hail and farewell noggin on New Year's Eve.

We could not find a dark man to cross the threshold so we discovered "Moggie," Miss Morris's black cat—sitting on the front steps surveying the merry world with insufferable feline nonchalance, so we dragged her across the threshold as a substitute. Well done, everybody.

W. E. BROOKES.

### Great-Grandfathers

A. Collins, of Durrington; H. Colley, of Ventnor, Isle of Wight (the fifth great-grandchild); J. Bentley, of North Finchley (the eleventh).

★ ★ ★

Mrs. W. Pratt, our St. Dunstaner's widow, recently of London and now of Australia, has become a grandmother. Fay had a son on October 19th.

### Mr. R. J. Williams

"Another well-known 'Muffled Drum' has passed away. This time it is 'Dick,' as we all knew him. Dick as a younger man won many prizes for both gardening and mat-designing. He was also a good sportsman and reached the final of the Single Sculls nine times, winning five and, with Joe Gimber, won the Double Sculls five times in a row. He did well as a race-walker, but at the latter sport was handicapped by bad balance.

His last fifteen years were a series of misfortunes; nevertheless, when we got together he never failed to provide us with a roar of laughter."

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

★ ★ ★

"Muffled Drums for Deafy Williams. Those of us who were able to penetrate the sound barrier knew what a grand chap he was. In spite of his added handicap, he was always ready to enjoy the fun and games of his more fortunate pals. Very alert to accept any information and always interested in what was going on around him. Kind and gentle in his manner and so grateful to any who would talk to him. A keen sportsman, ready for a walk or a swim. His love of gardening and knowledge of flowers were great compensations for his disability."

W. T. SCOTT.

### Personal

Matron Ramshaw writes:

"May I, through the REVIEW, say to all St. Dunstaners a very warm 'thank you' for your very beautiful Christmas greetings and calendars. I wish it was possible to thank you all personally, but know you understand. Also, I would like to say how much I have appreciated your many kind messages and enquiries during the past few months. A very Happy New Year and God bless you all."

★ ★ ★

Matron Avison, from West House, would also like to thank, through the REVIEW, all those who sent her such lovely Christmas cards and good wishes.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstan's Brighton Appeals Office acknowledges with grateful thanks a gift of five pounds from O.A.P. Anon., the mother of a St. Dunstaner blinded in the Second World War. Her kind thought is most deeply appreciated.

### Births

ALDRIDGE—In November, to the wife of L. Aldridge, of Pietermaritzburg, a son.

NUNN—To the wife of F. S. Nunn, of Ilkeston, on December 23rd, a daughter—Margaret Elizabeth.

ROBINSON—To the wife of Rex Robinson, of Acton, on December 17th, a daughter—Ann Elizabeth.

### Deaths

Our sincere sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

ALLCOCK—To H. F. Allcock, of West House, who has recently lost his son after an illness of only three days.

DOLBY—To A. S. Dolby, of Brighton, whose father died during the Christmas holiday.

ELIAS—To Marian Elias who has lost her mother. Her death was due in great measure to the shock sustained when members of her family were involved in the South Wales-Paddington train crash.

JONES—To Howell I. Morris Jones, of Prenton, Birkenhead, whose mother died on the 6th January at the great age of 100 years and a few months. She celebrated her centenary in sound health and spirit on the 13th of June last. She was a grand old lady and retained her faculties to a remarkable degree.

PORTER—To Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Porter, of Seven Kings, whose son, Frederick James, died on December 26th, after a long illness.

SAXON—To F. L. Saxon, of Stoke-on-Trent, whose wife died on January 2nd after a long illness.

WALDRON—To E. Waldron, of Weston-super-Mare, whose sister has recently died.

WALTON—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Walton, of Slade Green. His mother-in-law, whom he regarded as a mother, has just died.

WATERS—To A. Waters, of Saltdean, whose father died suddenly on December 19th.

### Test Results

**Typing.**—A. Nesbitt, W. Woodhall, C. Godfrey, A. Lane, J. Sugden, R. Newton, J. Simpson, M. Jarman, H. Meleson.

**Preliminary.**—G. Andrew, G. Dennis.

**Writing.**—J. Tyrell, W. Durrant, J. Brown, P. Harry, J. Whitcombe.

**Advanced.**—J. Whitcombe, P. Duffee.



## “In Memory”

### Private George Horace Morecroft, *The Buffs*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. H. Morecroft, originally of Folkestone, but since 1950 a resident at West House.

He was discharged from the Service in June, 1943, and came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1948, but owing to the condition of his health, it was not possible for him to undertake any training. He entered West House in November, 1950, but his health gradually deteriorated and he died there on January 4th. He was forty-one.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his sister, with whom he lived until he went to West House.

### Private Richard James Williams, *Wiltshire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of R. J. Williams, one of our deaf St. Dunstaners, who has been a resident of West House since 1950. He was sixty.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1923, he trained as a boot repairer. Later he went on to mat-making, and this he continued to do for some time.

The funeral took place at Southwick. He leaves a brother and sister, who is Mrs. George Fallowfield, and to them our deep sympathy is offered.

### Ernest Edward Callow, *Munition Factory*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on December 31st, of E. E. Callow, of London, N.4. He was fifty-eight.

He came to St. Dunstan's on November 11th, 1918, having been blinded while working on munitions. He trained as a boot repairer and mat-maker, and carried on this work for some time, occupying himself also with some poultry. During the Second War he worked in industry, later, when he gave this up taking joinery more or less as a hobby.

He died on December 31st after a very short illness, and was buried at Warley Cemetery, in the countryside where he had lived for so many years.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mabel, his wife, whom he had married only six months before.

### Lance Corporal William Henry Foxon, *2nd Leicester Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Foxon, a permanent resident at West House.

He originally enlisted in 1897 and was discharged in April, 1915, having been wounded at La Bassée. He came to St. Dunstan's in the following year and trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker. He lost his wife in 1931. He had not been able to work for some years and he subsequently came to West House. He had been spending a few months with friends in Leicester, and had only just returned to West House, where he died on January 12th.

### Company Sergeant Major John Gibson Hill, *2nd Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. G. Hill, of Crawley, Sussex, at the age of forty-eight.

Discharged from the Army in October, 1943, he came to St. Dunstan's five years later. He trained first in telephony and later as a capstan operator.

He died very suddenly on January 13th and leaves a widow and four children, to whom our very deep sympathy is offered.

### Staff Sergeant William Shakspeare, M.B.E., *Royal Army Service Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Shakspeare, of Sheldon, Birmingham, at the age of seventy-two. He died in his sleep after an illness of only a few weeks, although his health had been failing for some time.

He served from November, 1915, and was discharged from the Army in 1920. When he came to us in August, 1924, he trained as a mat-maker, but subsequently he became a very successful shop-keeper. In addition to his business activities, he was an exceedingly active member of the British Legion and had given generously of his time to appeals and other forms of public service. For this he was awarded the M.B.E.

“Shaky” was known up and down the country, for he was a member of the Birmingham Club, a keen member of the Bridge Club, and a popular figure in London, Brighton, and, in fact, wherever there was a St. Dunstan's gathering.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his son and daughter.

### Mr. C. H. Stephens

St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death on January 7th of Mr. C. R. Stephens, O.B.E., M.A., F.C.A., the National President of BLESMA. Our sincere sympathy goes out to our disabled comrades in the death of their beloved chief.

### Captain Stuart H. Hampson

We have also to record with deepest

regret the death of Captain S. H. Hampson, National Chairman of the British Legion, who died very suddenly on January 7th. Our deepest sympathy goes out to our comrades in the British Legion in the loss of a devoted leader and friend. Captain Hampson lived long enough to know that Her Majesty the Queen had honoured him with the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 434—VOLUME XXXIX

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PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

*Cape Town, February 6th.*

WHEREVER you go in South Africa, St. Dunstan's is well known and respected, and in most places there is a St. Dunstaner who contributes to our good report. In Maseru, the small capital of Basutoland, there is an active St. Dunstan's Committee, Mrs. Arrowsmith, the wife of the Resident Commissioner, being the Chairman. In Johannesburg there is a vigorous Committee under the presidency of Mrs. G. H. Beatty, with Mrs. Cade as Chairman and Mrs. Marshall as Secretary.

I was brought up and went to school in Johannesburg more than fifty years go, and it was an honour to me, as well as to St. Dunstan's, that I was invited by the Mayor to open a Herb Garden for the Blind in one of Johannesburg's squares. A distinguished audience was present, including the Administrator, the Mayor and Council, and officials of various societies for the blind. This garden is a symbol of the interest taken in their blind brothers and sisters by the citizens of Johannesburg and should be an encouragement to the blind as well as to those who work for them, and a spur to Government, local authorities and private persons to help blind people in various ways.

After the opening, a number of St. Dunstaners and their families who were present met us in a room set aside for the purpose, so that we had a small reunion. Danie Pretorius and R. V. G. French represented the physiotherapists; C. L. Minaar, D. Watkins and F. H. Venables the telephone operators, and L. Higgs has a fruit and vegetable shop called in Afrikaans by the charming name of a "winkel." J. G. du Preez and "Pops" Marais were there also. Pops is an ardent radio fan. He has his own transmitter and told me that on 40 metres wave length he had communicated with an amateur in North America. St. Dunstaners in the United Kingdom, of whom there are at least two or three with transmitters, should try to make radio contact with Pops. "I do not feel I am blind when I am talking to one of my amateur friends," said Pops, "because neither of us can see the other."

In Cape Town, which is the headquarters of St. Dunstan's in South Africa, I had conferences with Sir Donald Mackenzie Kennedy, the Chairman, and Mr. Askew, who is out here on an advisory mission for the benefit of St. Dunstan's, London, and St. Dunstan's, South Africa, and attended a Board Meeting at which we discussed many matters of mutual interest. In the evening all St. Dunstaners in the Cape Peninsula came to meet us at a reception. Amongst those we met were Jimmy Ellis, who is still going strong as propagandist, Michael Norman, who continues as Padre of his new church, the building of which has



now been completed, and Tom Hart, who carries on an established physiotherapy practice. He hopes to come to England this year to learn the latest treatments and to see the newest gadgets.

My family business in the Orange Free State, Basutoland and the Transvaal is, I am glad to say, flourishing, and I even discovered slight improvements in the tensions which have made South Africa an uneasy place in recent years.

I tried to get two days' fishing for big game fish, but two expeditions my friends had planned came to nothing because half a gale was blowing from the south-east. If you are a fisherman you will know that it is always too hot or too cold, too rough or too smooth, too bright or too dull or the wrong time of the year to catch a fish. It is always better the day before you arrive or the day after you have left—like Ruth Draper's garden! But no doubt this is the reason why, when you do get a fish, you think you are the hell of a fellow.

I have already recovered fully from my operation and when we arrive in England on February 24th, after a further fortnight at sea, I shall no doubt be fit not only for my strenuous life at home, but even for what then remains of the cruel English winter. Lady Fraser is also very well indeed and we send our best wishes to all St. Dunstaners.

IAN FRASER.

### Complimentary Tickets

As many St. Dunstaners are no doubt aware, we do usually receive a few Complimentary Tickets for the Royal Tournament and the Trooping of the Colour Ceremony, and I shall be happy to receive applications from any men who wish to attend these functions if we are fortunate enough to secure tickets again this year. As is our usual practice, if there are more applications than tickets, we will hold a ballot and notify everybody concerned nearer the time. Both these functions usually take place mid-week.

C. D. WILLS,  
*Welfare Superintendent.*

### Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

Mr. A. D. Lloyds, who is Honorary Treasurer of the above Fund, informs us that as a result of Mr. Askew's notice in the November REVIEW, the excellent sum of £42 13s. 8d. has been subscribed, and this has been sent to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League for them to purchase the watches.

Mr. Lloyds asks us to say how very grateful he is to all those who have subscribed so generously towards this Fund.

### Butlin's Holiday Camps

Messrs. Butlin's have very kindly advised us that they are still offering the same privilege to blind people during their early and late season, i.e., £1 reduction off the normal tariff for the disabled person himself (or herself) and £1 reduction for the person sharing the chalet—husband, wife or escort.

### Mr. H. Bennett

Several St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a presentation to Mr. Bennett, who, as was mentioned in last month's REVIEW, retired at the end of January.

Mr. Lloyds has agreed to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund, and St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with the presentation should send their subscriptions to him at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

### Another Fishing Rod

Last year we mentioned a fishing rod that had been given to St. Dunstan's. Now Sir Ian has another one. It is a 9ft. cane rod of American design, suitable only for trout or sea trout fishing.

It is an old rod, probably 10 or 15 years old, and slightly "soft," as old-fashioned rods often are, which means that it will not cast a line a long way but is somewhat easier for short casts.

The rings were rusty but Sir Ian has had new ones fitted and he would be very pleased to pass the rod on to a true trout fisherman if he knew to whom it would be most useful.

Will those who are interested write to the Editor and if the choice is not obvious, we will ballot for the rod as we did for the last one.

### Placement

J. H. Brown, of Derker, Oldham, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. G. Orme & Co., of Oldham.

## London Club Notes

### Bridge

The Harrogate Week will be held this year from September 8th-15th. Arrangements have been made to accommodate our party at the Dirlton Hotel, Ripon Road, and the terms per day will be 25s. 6d. inclusive.

As we must make our reservations at the hotel as soon as possible, will all members who would like to join the party and who have not already sent in their names to me, do so as soon as possible, and in any case not later than March 31st.

Congratulations to our team in the London Business Houses League, which up to the time of going to press has played ten matches and won eight of them. They have two more matches to play.

DRUMMER DOWNS.

## Golden Wedding

Warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. Eaton, of Southwick, whose Golden Wedding was on February 4th. They received hosts of good wishes, flowers and cards. There were two iced cakes and "Dru" made another cake, which was taken to the Evergreen Club (for old age pensioners) to celebrate the double event of another couple's diamond wedding and their own golden wedding.

## Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Etherington, of Windlesham. Congratulations.

## Forty-six Years

Mr. and Mrs. F. Collinge, of Blackpool, celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary on February 5th.

## Young St. Dunstaners

The son of L. Jackson, of Heswall, has been elected to Beddington Council.

From Davyhulme, Manchester, Mrs. McCarthy tells us that their youngest daughter and her family arrived in Canada on Christmas Day, and the next sister, with her family, left on February 10th. The two sisters will live near each other in Toronto.

Also emigrating are Nora Firth (Meols, Wirral), and her family, who sail for Australia on March 6th.

Martin Dunkley, Feltham, who was ten last month, has passed the London College of Music examination (Junior) for piano-forte playing. He scored 87 marks out of a possible 100 and a "First Class."

## Empire Builder or—

To anybody who, like me, grew up amongst people who used to be called "little Englanders," to whom the name and all the works of Cecil Rhodes were alike anathema, I recommend a book available in Braille called "Rhodes," by Sarah Gertrude Millin.

An amazing and fascinating story of how Boer farmland became the great diamond and gold producing industries, and thousands of acres were added to the British Empire almost by what seems a wave of the hand. No attempt is made to whitewash the hero. He is painted, like Cromwell, "wart and all," but despite the undoubted blemishes in the portrait, I was left with the impression of a great man, for whom I could not feel anything but a sneaking regard and sympathy. There must have been many of the same opinion in the country, for he was obviously a national idol in the nineties.

This narrative gives one an inkling of the background to attitudes, and points of view, which are shaping events in South Africa to-day. I have a personal link with those not so distant happenings, because I have a friend—we nicknamed him "The Sheriff" in Toc H—who served in the Mashonaland Mounted Police and took part in the Matabele War, the Jameson Raid, and the Boer War. I wish he were still alive that I might talk over with him his recollections.

S. A. CHAMBERS.

## Holiday Accommodation

Mrs. Paddy Doyle, of "Harlington," Great Preston Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, offers comfortable holiday accommodation. Moderate terms, bed and breakfast. Please apply early for summer season.

## Grandfathers

John Alton, of Melbourne, Australia, (His eldest daughter had a little girl on December 3rd).

C. H. Hills, of Bowral, New South Wales, Australia, a granddaughter.

★ ★ ★

When Braintree snooker players visited Long Melford Ex-Service and Working Men's Club for their final, Roland Mayner came with them to meet his old St. Dunstan's friend, Arthur Clover, with whom he had trained years ago.



## Manchester Club Notes

On Friday, February 10th, our Club met in party atmosphere, and instead of playing the usual Competition games, members and their wives were entertained to an excellent tea, prepared and tastefully served by our enthusiastic lady officials—Mrs. Dunphy, Miss Hill and Mrs. Lang.

This was the occasion for the presentation of the cups and prizes in connection with the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions for 1955.

Miss Doel, our Welfare Visitor, very kindly consented to make the presentations to the winners. This was possible in all games except Dominoes, in which case the last four have to play off.

The presentations came immediately after tea to the following, the name of the first prize-winner being followed by the runner-up in each case.

*Darts, T.B.*: Jim Blakeley, A. Clarke.

*Darts, S.S.*: W. McCarthy, W. Bramley.

*Cribbage*: S. Russell, W. Bentley.

The Cups went to the first-named in each case.

In Dominoes the last four to play off are: S. Heys, H. Abraham, W. McCarthy, S. Russell.

In the Ladies' Section the prizes are given by the Club. The winners and runners-up were:—

*Darts*: Mrs. A. Collier, Mrs. W. McCarthy.

*Dominoes*: Mrs. A. Collier, Mrs. S. Russell.

*Cards*: Mrs. A. Collier, Mrs. W. Bentley.

Miss Doel expressed her pleasure in making the presentations, and spoke of the keen enthusiasm of the whole company in Club matters. She suitably congratulated the winners and wished the Club continued success.

With still some time to spare, the company indulged in party games, under the direction of Mrs. Lang and to music provided at the piano by Mr. Charles Clarke—"Nobby" Clarke's son, who has helped us financially on several occasions.

The Chairman expressed sincere thanks to the ladies who had made the evening such a success, and to Miss Doel for her interest and co-operation in Club matters, and for individual help at all times.

"MANCUNIAN."

★ ★ ★

In 1955, W. H. Collins, of Blackpool, collected in a box on his sideboard £30 for the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

## Gardens for the Blind in South Africa

On January 25th, Sir Ian Fraser opened the Attwell Garden for the Blind in Plein Square, Johannesburg. A number of St. Dunstaners and their wives were present at the ceremony, which was attended by the Administrator of the Transvaal, Dr. Nicoll, the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. Leslie V. Hurd, as well as Reef Mayors and Mayoresses and Johannesburg City Councillors.

At the entrance to the garden is a large gate, and on the pillars on either side is a cast bronze plaque bearing Sir Ian's name as the opener. Sir Ian said he was very honoured that he had been asked to open the garden and the Mayor, in reply, said: "This is not the first time that your name has been seen in Johannesburg; there are two streets called Fraser Street, one where your father and his family lived when you were a little boy, and the other where he had his office; and the name of your two uncles is on the tall building in Commissioner Street, which is the Transvaal headquarters of your family's business."

The bronze plaque is in duplicate, so that one may be in English and the other in Afrikaans—both are official languages. All Acts of Parliament, all notices, all stamps and coins are printed or inscribed in both languages.

★ ★ ★

It was a great disappointment to E. Denny, of Pretoria, that the car taking him to Johannesburg for the opening by Sir Ian Fraser of the Garden for the Blind broke down on the way.

★ ★ ★

A similar Garden for the Blind was recently opened in Cape Town and many listeners to the Home Service may have heard our St. Dunstaner, the Rev. Michael Norman, answering questions about it in a recent lunch-time broadcast from the B.B.C. It was, of course, a recording of an interview given in Cape Town.

## Speaking to Australia

D. Livingstone, of Mauchline, Ayrshire, was 80 on February 5th and his daughter, May, telephoned him from Melbourne, Australia, to wish him a happy birthday. Mrs. Livingstone too spoke to May for a minute. Reception was perfect, and the experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all of them.

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Three years ago, Wally Ruddock died here (at Ovingdean) and left me his walking stick, the stick that had helped him to take me and others to the "Star" for a drink and a chat during the war years, when we met at Blackpool.

To-day there is only Joe Jordan and myself left of the original men who met for the first Deaf Reunion of 1932, and when I am making my short journeys alone, this walking stick brings back many memories of the old days.

When the time comes, pals, why not leave your stick to an old friend? If you have not an old one, there are plenty of young ones and your stick will still be helping a St. Dunstaner.

Yours sincerely,

G. FALLOWFIELD.

DEAR EDITOR,

S. A. Chambers's introspective article was very interesting but he definitely missed the true point of Chirgwin's famous song, "I am but a poor blind boy, once my mother's pride and joy," was not a cheap sentiment, and the closing line is "They love me, yes, they love me because I'm blind." The true moral of the song is contained in the message that "though I never saw the light, nor the stars they call so bright, still my heart is filled with joy, because they love me, yes, they love me because I'm blind."

We of St. Dunstan's know nothing of that sense of extreme loss. We have seen the light, the stars and the world. Many like me have, as I sometimes say, seen it all, for I have climbed the Rockies, ridden the vast prairies, crossed the oceans in war and peace, calm and storm. The "poor" blind man to whom Tommy Rogers referred, was indeed poor in that he had probably been like Chirgwin's boy, without knowledge of even the meaning of light, stars and vast distances, and great adventures. I sometimes feel that we St. Dunstaners, although we may have achieved victory over our various and varying handicaps through the wonderful training and even more generous feeling of After-Care security, are inclined to become unconsciously exhibitionists.

Lack of sight, after years of perfect vision and years of travel and experience, can

become a blessing that inspires that deeper concentration which in turn develops the sixth sense, and also the seventh sense of spiritual inspiration. We have had sight and have had it taken away, and I at least have found an ability to read and understand what I read, and find comfort and perhaps consolation in the wonderful Scriptures.

People do not like us because we can follow normal occupations without sight, or because we are clever in getting about or able to keep up to date and express ourselves. They love us only when, as Chirgwin says, "Our hearts are full of joy," and in that I have found the civilian blind who were born blind or blind from childhood have us beat all ways. To them what we do and learned with effort comes naturally, and even though we live to be as old as Methuselah and may even surpass them in skill, we shall never be able to appreciate what it means never to have seen the light, nor those stars we know are so bright, and when pity is akin to love, we can pity and love without emphasising the reason for or extent of our own disability.

Faithfully yours,

Castle Cary.

A. J. RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

As there were only seven replies to the suggestion made to hold the fourth College Reunion, it has been decided to leave the matter in abeyance for the time being.

Yours sincerely,

Streatham.

W. T. SCOTT.

## We hear that—

W. R. Freeman, of Hanham, near Bristol, won the Silver Cup and Banksian Medal for the best exhibit in Bristol and District Chrysanthemum Show, and at the Hanham Show he won the Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit of tomatoes. Altogether during the 1955 season he won nineteen firsts, seven seconds and five third prizes.

At the Bristol Show Mrs. Freeman won the Silver Cup for the best Floral Art Display.

★ ★ ★

Another keen grower, E. West, of Egham, gained second and third prizes with his chrysanthemums at the Egham Show in November.



## News from Overseas

Writing on November 28th last, C. H. Hills, of Bowral, N.S.W., Australia, says:

"I am sorry to say I have not typed a letter for over two years, and am therefore quite a little rusty. That goes for the machine as well, still the same old No. 7 Remington St. Dunstan's gave me early in 1916, when I left the old school...."

Following on St. Dunstan's experiments, the Repatriation War Blind Welfare Committee has succeeded in placing several lads in industry, mainly process workers and telephone operators, and even messengers, and according to all accounts they seem to be giving every satisfaction."

(Our St. Dunstaner need not have apologised for his typing. In spite of his "rustiness" and the fact that his hands are so accustomed to much rough work, gardening, fencing and concreting, the letter was very nearly perfectly written.—ED.).

★ ★ ★

Telling us of his son, Peter's, success, Cecil Herdson, of Auckland, New Zealand, writes: "I am using a gadget I constructed some years ago (my hurdy-gurdy). I use it when feeling too lazy to type." Peter has recently completed his first professional examination and is now B.Med.Science. He has just turned 23 and at 19 qualified as a Member of the Pharmaceutical Society.

★ ★ ★

N. F. Nolde, who emigrated to Australia in 1952, is forging ahead, and has just moved to a very much larger house.

He has had a full year as President of the British Ex-Service Legion of Australia and has attended many official functions in that capacity. The highlights were the Anzac Day march and the reception given by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to Lord Home, the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations. He writes: "Anzac Day March was a very proud day for me; accompanied by my Secretary I had the honour of leading almost a thousand men and women along the route to the Shrine of Remembrance. This is always a great occasion in Melbourne and is equivalent to Remembrance Day in England. As you can imagine, my chest expanded quite a few inches."

## National Library for the Blind E. W. Austin Memorial Competition

The 27th E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held at the National Library for the Blind on Saturday, May 12th.

Unseen passages will be read and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will be only awarded if merited.) The sections of interest to St. Dunstaners are:

Class A. Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

Class B. Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

Class C. Readers who have learnt to read Braille since the age of 16 and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes. This class will be divided into:

1. Readers who lost their sight before 1938.
2. Readers who have lost their sight since 1938.

*Open Competition*: A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of the Open, Medal and Classes A, B and C for the reading of a passage from the Brontes.

*Deaf-Blind Readers*: Open to blind readers of Braille who are also deaf.

Intending competitors should send their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Tuesday, 1st May, 1956, stating in which class they wish to enter.

## Flight of Life

*Oh lovely bird, so weak and frail,  
Winging across the skies of life;  
Battling against the roughest gale,  
Plunging swift through pain and strife.  
You are the bird of my desires,  
The winged messenger of my wishes,  
You are the zest that never tires,  
The anxious seeker of mental riches.  
Lovely bird, be careful please  
Whilst rising on a breath of praise;  
Your small wings go not hard and freeze  
When cold contempt its voice doth raise.  
Be careful, too, of birds of prey  
In case they hunt you, lovely bird;  
And leave you ere the set of day,  
Where breathless voice shall not be heard.  
When passing thro' the sands of time  
Be careful, bird that never tires,  
And soar up high, oh hope of mine  
Above Gehenna's raging fires.  
Should you gain the Styx divide,  
Do not cross, oh bird, but wait;  
For I would fain have thee beside  
When I reach the golden gate.*

M. VINCENT ALDRIDGE.

## Births

BURNS—On January 23rd, to the wife of M. Burns, of Westcliff-on-Sea, a son—Alistair Duncan.

WILLIAMS—On January 14th, to the wife of Chris. Williams, of Beckenham, a son—Adrian John.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BENTLEY—To W. Bentley, of Gorton, Manchester, and Mrs. Bentley, who have lost a grandchild.

CARLTON—To W. C. Carlton, of Morecambe, and his sister, Mrs. J. McDermott, of Davyhulme, Manchester (wife of our St. Dunstaner), who have lost their father.

DAVIDSON—To J. Davidson, of West House, who has recently lost his sister, Mrs. Sloan.

DAVIES—To J. H. V. Davies, of Braunton, near Barnstaple, and Mrs. Davies, in the loss of Mrs. Davies' mother, to whom both were devoted.

HOYLE—To Cliff Hoyle, of Chadderton, whose mother has died very suddenly.

ROSEWARNE—To T. H. Rosewarne, of Denton, Manchester, whose father has recently died.

SHAVE—To R. Shave, of Osmington, who lost his mother at the end of 1955.

STERNO—To A. Sterno, of Bath, whose wife died on January 19th after a long period of ill-health.

WILLIAMS—To T. A. Williams, of Sheringham, whose wife died on February 17th after a long illness.

## Mr. R. J. Williams

We deeply regret that the relatives of the late R. J. Williams were given as "a brother and sister." Our St. Dunstaner left two brothers and two sisters, and our deep sympathy is extended to them, and in particular to his eldest brother, Mr. Ernest A. Williams, with whom he lived until he retired, and who himself was in hospital at the time of his brother's death.

## Mr. W. Shakspeare

Mr. R. T. Cooling writes:—

"Bill Shakspeare will certainly be missed. The great number affected by his death was illustrated by the attendance at his funeral.

Since I had the privilege of knowing the Birmingham Club members (soon after 1914) Bill Shakspeare has always been one, if not the most prominent of members. Although physically not built for prominence in our sports, he was a very noticeable trier and popular for his enthusiasm and determination. Mentally he was alert and sound, a tower of strength in our management. He was a natural choice to represent our Club, not because he was a fluent speaker, but because his obvious sincerity and calm reasoning made him a respected advocate for any cause. He has been on the Committee of the Club practically continuously, and won the esteem and affection of young and old."

## Mr. W. H. Foxon

Mr. J. Noble, Acting Hon. Secretary of the Old Contemptibles Association, Leicester Branch, writes:—

"We in Leicester have followed with very deep interest the course of events in connection with our old friend and comrade, the late Chum Foxon.

We are much heartened by the many kindnesses and attention he received during his stay with you, and also by the splendid way in which his interment was carried out.

It is the very special wish of the Branch that I should convey to you and your staff our deep appreciation of the way our departed Chum was looked after by all of you during his last days, and thank you so very, very much for all you have done.

"It is very nice to know that a friend of ours should be so happily found amongst such good friends as all of you in Brighton have proved yourselves to be."

## Mr. T. H. Panton

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Mr. T. H. Panton, who was a Technical Visitor in the Mats Section of the Stores Department from 1919 until his retirement in 1946. Mr. Panton collapsed and died on Sunday, January 22nd.

Mr. D. W. Ferguson represented St. Dunstan's at the funeral.



## “In Memory”

### Private Michael John Printie, *1st Royal Irish Rifles*

We record with deep regret the death of M. J. Printie, of Edinburgh, which occurred at his home on January 31st.

Enlisting on September 3rd, 1914, he was blinded on the Somme and also suffered a very badly damaged hand. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1917 and had a shop for some time, but he was for many years a telephonist. His health had not been good for a very long time and he had had to take life very quietly.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and children; his eldest son is himself ill.

### Sergeant James Richard Hopkins, *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on January 25th, of J. R. Hopkins, of Llanelly.

A former Customs Office clerk, he enlisted immediately on the outbreak of the 1914 war. He was severely gassed during his service in France, and was discharged in June, 1919, but it was not until 1950 that he came to us. He suffered greatly as a result of the gassing and his death occurred after years of illness at his home, devotedly nursed by his wife.

To Mrs. Hopkins and his family our deep sympathy is offered.

### Gunner John S. Whitelam, *Royal Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of J. S. Whitelam, of Westcliff-on-Sea. He was 57.

Discharged from the Service in September, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's the following year and trained as a masseur. He continued in the profession of physiotherapy until 1952, when he was forced to give up owing to his failing health. He died on January 25th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Whitelam and his family.

### Private Frederick Robert Ventham, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. H. Ventham, of Gravesend. He was 74.

He served in the Army until 1919, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until January, 1952, when his age and state of health made training out of the question.

A single man, he was well known at West House, where he spent holidays from time to time, but his home was with his sister-in-law, to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

### Corporal James Henry Parker, *M.M., Devon Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of J. H. Parker, a permanent resident at West House. He was 60.

He was severely wounded in France in 1918 and when he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1934, his health forbade any training and he was for many years in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond. Last year he went to Ovingdean and later became a permanent resident at West House but his health was deteriorating rapidly and he died on February 4th.

The funeral service took place at Brighton Cemetery and he was laid to rest with his comrades in St. Dunstan's own plot. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and the Last Post was sounded.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and two sons.

### First Class Plumber Leslie James Maker, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of L. J. Maker, of Plymouth, at the age of forty-two. He was discharged from the Royal Navy in March, 1948, and came within our border-line benefits in January, 1955, becoming a full St. Dunstanian in September of last year.

He trained in weaving and netting and was working until his sudden death on January 9th.

He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

### O. Deary, J. Charters, G. Mouritz and F. Strongman, *Australian Forces.*

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. McConnell that the following Australian St. Dunstanians have died. O. Deary, of Victoria, J. Charters, of Sydney, New South Wales, G. Mouritz, of Mount Albert, Victoria, and F. Strongman, of Prospect, South Australia.

Mr. Strongman was keenly interested in the affairs of blinded soldiers and was a delegate from South Australia to Conferences.

Our deep sympathy is extended to their relatives.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### An Ounce of Practice

THE day I entered my cabin on board ship, I put my fingers by mistake into an electric fan which was revolving quickly. This minor accident meant that my right hand was tied up for two or three days and the doctor told me not to use it and not to get it wet; so I shaved and dressed and bathed with one hand, and it took me twice as long as usual. I thought of many St. Dunstaners who cheerfully and capably manage with one hand, and was full of admiration for them. I expect with practice and ingenuity the difficulties are lessened, but it is nevertheless a great additional handicap. I thought of those who have lost both hands as well as sight, and of the remarkable way they do things for themselves and my admiration was unbounded. An ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory.

### Noise

Why did I put my hand into an electric fan? It seems a silly thing to do. The reason was that, as I entered the cabin, I was talking to somebody and the noise disturbed me, and I thought it was a ventilator which I could safely turn off. Like running into the edge of a door, this is the kind of thing one does not do twice. I wonder if other St. Dunstaners dislike noise as much as I do? I think when you don't see, you want to hear everything that is going on, including the finer inflections and shades of expression of the human voice, and so any persistent noise puts you off and, in a sense, cuts you off from intimate understanding and appreciation of what is happening.

### St. Dunstan's Clubs

I am glad to read the reports appearing in the REVIEW from time to time concerning the St. Dunstan's Clubs; in addition to the London Club there are five others situated in some of the larger provincial centres—Birmingham, Brighton, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester—where a number of St. Dunstaners have their homes.

Each Club is run by a Committee of St. Dunstaners, and many activities are undertaken. These warm, friendly gatherings, at which old and new friends meet for tea, whist, dominoes, bridge, darts, and so on, are very popular with the regulars. Some of my London friends tell me, however, that they would like to see more of their colleagues become members, and I urge all who have not yet done so to join a St. Dunstan's Club where there is one in their vicinity. Our Clubs are performing most useful work in enabling St. Dunstaners to meet one another and to take part in recreations, social evenings and outings. Those who already belong show much keenness, but would like to feel that other St. Dunstaners joined with them in their meetings.

IAN FRASER.



### The Rev. F. Darrell Bunt

The Reverend F. Darrell Bunt, O.B.E., M.A., R.N., who is a member of St. Dunstan's Council, has been appointed Chaplain of the Fleet, his appointment taking effect as from May 15th.

Mr. Bunt will be known to a number of St. Dunstaners in the South and West of England, where he has attended a number of Reunions.

### "1916-1917 Fortnights"

May I remind St. Dunstaners who were in training during the years 1916-1917 and who wish to meet fellow trainees on holiday at Ovingdean that they should book for the fortnights, *2nd to 16th June* or *1st to 15th September* respectively, by the *31st March*, in order to be sure of reservations.

C. D. WILLS,  
*Welfare Superintendent.*

### 1956 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Wednesday, June 6th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. *No other person can enter.*

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 25th.** Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, *ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW*, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered. Tickets will be issued consecutively.

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 31st, and all those drawing horses will be notified.

### "100% South African"

Jimmy Ellis has sent us the following English translation of an article which appeared in "Die Vaderland," in Afrikaans, on January 26th. Its heading was "Practically blind immigrant becomes 100% South African."

"For a practically blind person to become efficient in an intricate or complicated profession, and completely adapt himself to society is praiseworthy enough. Having emigrated to a strange country, and above all within a few years mastering a strange language, makes him not only exceptional, but admirable.

"Among those present at the opening of the Attwell Gardens for the Blind, Johannesburg, yesterday was such a person. He is Mr. R. V. G. French, a British immigrant, who for the last few years has been employed as a physiotherapist in Krugersdorp. Mr. French, a cheerful, energetic person who lost his sight in the last war, speaks Afrikaans fluently and without effort—and that after only four years in the country. Not only he but his wife and little daughter converse socially together in the language that they had to learn from scratch.

"We are all three English," said Mr. French to "Die Vaderland," "but we like to speak Afrikaans—it is a very pleasant language." He is particularly proud of his six-year-old daughter, who, though born in England speaks the best Afrikaans of the three of them. Mr. French speaks with appreciation and praise of the personnel of the Krugersdorp Hospital, where he was employed until recently as a Senior Physiotherapist and where he learnt to speak a great deal of his Afrikaans. He is now in private practice at Krugersdorp."

### Camp—Lee-on-Solent

I have good news for you all. The Commodore has once again most kindly invited a party of fifty St. Dunstaners to camp for a week at the Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, Hants, from Friday, August 17th, to August 24th, 1956. Camp fee, 25s.

Please send names as soon as possible. Closing date for entries, May 7th.

Mrs. Spurway,  
The Vicarage,  
Holmwood,  
Dorking.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge*.—Our first Bridge Drive of the year was held on February 25th and was very successful. The winner was Roy Armstrong, a new Bridge Club member and a Second War man. Congratulations, Roy. W. Bishop and his partner were second; Freddy Winter and partner, third. The parity prize went to F. Jackson.

In the absence of no less than three members of the Committee at Ovingdean, Jock Brown has carried out all the work of organising all this year's matches so far and the Bridge Drive on February 25th. He deserves our hearty thanks.

Our team in the London Business Houses League—Messrs. C. Bulman, H. Gover, P. Nuyens (captain), C. Thompson, and F. Winter—have now played all twelve of their matches. They have won nine and lost three. Their placing in the final League table is not yet available, as other teams have more matches to play.

DRUMMER DOWNS.

## Outdoor Section

*Ten Mile Walk for the "Fitureite" Trophy and a match with the Metropolitan Police, Regent's Park, Saturday, February 18th*

The arctic weather was still with us on February 18th, the day arranged for our ten mile race, and it was not surprising, therefore, to see only a small field.

The battle with the icy wind became more important than the actual match, and the frozen competitors struggled on determined to finish the course. Such comments as "Cor, he must be crackers" from the passers-by did not encourage us, still we carried on and everyone won through. Times were slow but that was to be expected.

Archie Brown won the "Fitureite" Trophy, being first in the handicap, and Billy Miller took the fastest-loser prize.

The Metropolitan Police beat St. Dunstan's by 23 points to 32. W. M.

Order of Finish	Actual Time	H'cp. All.	H'cp. Posn. Time H'cp.
1.*P.C. Fotheringham	91.30		
2.*P.C. Dennis	93.42		
3.†W. Miller	94.55	Scr.	94.55 2
4.†A. Brown	96.11	3.00	93.11 1
5.*P.C. James	97.15		
6.†C. Williamson	97.17	2.00	95.17 3
7.*P.S. Brown	101.57		
8.*P.C. Smith	102.12		
9.†C. Stafford	108.47	8.30	100.17 4
10.†L. Dennis	112.02	6.30	105.32 5
*Metropolitan Police.	†St. Dunstan's.		

## From All Quarters

Jock Macfarlane, of Ilford, was elected to the Working Party to draw up a constitution for the Grading Committee of the Civil Service Union, and has now been elected to the Grading Committee. He will represent Southern England. He is one of six and will serve for three years.

★ ★ ★

H. W. ("Bunny") Greatrex, of Peacehaven, has received his badge of rank as a senior warden of Chailey Rural District Civil Defence Corps. The presentation was made by Lord Hindlip. "Bunny" has also been asked to represent Chailey Rural District on the executive committee which is to press for a South Eastern Regional B.B.C. programme. This is a result of his excellent address at a meeting of authorities held at Caxton Hall, London.

★ ★ ★

J. A. Bocking, of Morecambe, talked to members of the local Toc H recently about St. Dunstan's and illustrated his talk with the Toc H Annual in braille. This particular branch of Toc H presents the Annual to our St. Dunstaner and other blind people and the current issue says "Its publication is a tiny tribute from Toc H to the great courage of sightless men and women who have refused to allow their handicap to prevent them in any way from taking a full share in the life of the Community."

## The Difference

*Man, on earth, was born to serve.  
Not as bondsman or as serf  
But free to come and free to go,  
If man's to serve it must be so.  
Service sets no time or place,  
Demands not terms nor yet the price,  
Its only claim is freedom's grace,  
Since service dies where tyrants rise.  
So he the mark of Cain must wear  
Who would his fellow-men ensnare,  
And bind him to a vassal's chair.  
Yet, some must hew and some must plan,  
Some in the rear, some in the van,  
Sometimes giving, and sometimes taking,  
'Tis a law of nature's making.  
So each to his appointed task,  
Plain John Smith, or His Lordship Grand,  
To till the soil or rule the land,  
'Tis all the same, the die is cast.  
But service never made a slave,  
Only man a slave can make,  
Where false gods in high places stand,  
And Demos plays the despot's hand.*

T. ROGERS.



### Reunions, 1956

April	7	...	... Bournemouth
"	11	...	... Plymouth
"	14	...	... Bristol
May	3	...	... Manchester
"	4	...	... Chester
"	5	...	... Liverpool
"	9	...	... Canterbury
"	12	...	... Guildford
"	26	...	... Cardiff (Provisional)
"	30	...	... Ipswich
June	1	...	... Nottingham
"	2	...	... Birmingham
"	19	...	... Belfast (Provisional)
"	21	...	... Dublin
"	30	...	... Luton
July	7	...	... Doncaster
"	10	...	... Glasgow (Provisional)
"	12	...	... Newcastle
"	14	...	... Harrogate
Sept.	5	...	... Brighton
"	21	...	... London

### Cardiff Club Notes

We held our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 3rd, when we re-elected Mr. J. Caple as Chairman. We also elected Mr. A. Cartwright and Mr. R. Jones on to the Club Committee. Miss Davies agreed to continue as Honorary Treasurer. Our Chairman expressed the appreciation of the members when he thanked Miss Davies for her generous assistance in all our activities.

Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Jones and Miss Brewer volunteered to provide our refreshments during the coming year.

We take this opportunity to thank the retiring Committee-men for their services to the Club and the ladies who have provided us with such excellent teas throughout the year.

A. CARTWRIGHT.

### Another Dance

There will be a Dance—free to St. Dunstaners and their escorts—on **Friday, May 18th**, from 7.30—11, at the Trevelyan Hall, off Great Peter Street, Westminster. All St. Dunstaners invited.

### To St. Dunstan's Motorists

Have you ever thought of joining the Automobile Association? If you are a member they will supply you by return of post with the best route for any trip you are making. You can then help your driver a lot if you braille the route and read it to him or her on the journey. Do try it.

A. O. S.

### Talking Book Library

#### Formidable February

"The Morals of Marcus Ordeyne," by W. J. Locke, reader Lionel Marson, is a light-hearted comedy. Marcus, a schoolmaster, inherits a baronetcy, encounters an Anglo-Turkish beauty deserted in London, houses her, and the subsequent upset to his sedate bachelorhood is amusing to all except Marcus and his mistress. *Cat. No. 949.*

"The Lost Traveller," by A. White, reader Marjorie Anderson, concerns the family of a schoolmaster and his wife. The family consists of an only daughter whose early years are complicated by her father embracing the Roman Catholic religion, and a secret contempt for her mother. After a very unsettled education the girl finds a job as governess, which eventually leads to romance via tragedy. It should appeal to ladies more than to men. *Cat. No. 950.*

"No More Meadows," by Monica Dickens, reader Jean Metcalfe, has London and Washington for its background. A bookshop in London, naval attaché at the U.S.A. Embassy—hey presto!—G.I. bride and naval circles in Washington. Quite an ordeal but the girl carries it through successfully. *Cat. No. 951.*

"England, Their England," by A. G. McDonald, reader John Webster, has some most enlivening moments. It is a kaleidoscopic account of various facets of Sassanach life in the twenties. Nowadays it would be termed "A Scot taking the micky out of the English"! Good fun! *Cat. No. 952.*

"That Enchantress," by Doris Leslie, reader Arthur Bush, records the career of Mrs. Masham, the successor to Sarah, Lady Churchill, in the role of nurse and adviser to Queen Anne. In these historical she-cat struggles, fact and fiction are inextricably mixed and although the usual conclusion is that both were clever, unscrupulous women, this version makes Mrs. Masham a much-maligned heroine. *Cat. No. 953.*

"The Citadel," by A. J. Cronin, reader Franklin Engelmann, is an epic account of the struggles and success of a young doctor, first in a Welsh mining area, then in London. *Remake of Cat. No. 276.*

"Mr. Standfast," by John Buchan, reader Robert Gladwell, is a spy story follow-up to the "Thirty-nine Steps," with Richard

Hannay a front line general and special agent. Thrilling, moving and romantic! *Remake of Cat. No. 211.*

"Whereas I was Blind," by W. J. (Sir Ian) Fraser, reader Alvar Lidell, deals with the experiences of a man still living about whom all in this island who have lost their sight must have heard. This book might have been especially written for the Talking Book, it comes across so admirably. *Remake of Cat. No. 464.*

"In Search of England," by H. V. Morton, reader Arthur Bush, is a travel book that may be an eye-opener to those obsessed with continental jaunts, thinking there is nothing attractive about our own dear land. England can withstand another hundred such searches without nearly exhausting its places of interest. An entertaining fragment. *Remake of Cat. No. 516.*

"So Well Remembered," by James Hilton, reader Stephen Jack, covers the period between the wars and spills over a little into this post-war period. In a mill town in the Midlands, George Boswell, son of a mill hand and editor of the local rag, takes a hand in local politics and becomes mayor. His unhappy and interesting private life makes him concentrate hard on the reforming schemes he forces through the council in public life. Do read the personal, interesting tit-bits—this is a good book. *Cat. No. 947.* "NELSON."

### Reverie

*The firelight beams fanatastic dreams  
Into the mind,  
The devils dance a dervish prance,  
To reason . . . blind,  
Confined thoughts find free release.  
Imagination takes caprice  
By the hand.  
In the maze of this phantomed blaze  
Emotions reel,  
On the face of ignition's pace,  
Memories weal,  
Beloved forms take visual shape,  
In scarlet, blue and golden drape,  
Love retold.  
In magic spell the flames compel  
Problems resolve,  
The fevered glow makes genius flow,  
Ideas revolve,  
Then as one peers, the ears incline,  
To purred content, to hissed malign,  
Escapism.*

JOHN CRUSE.

### Lines from Australia

Peter O'Donoghue, whose verse we print below, lives at Tanglewood, Mapleton, Queensland, Australia, and it will be noticed that the first letters of the lines form the name of his house. In hospital for over eleven years, he has now been home for three. He writes:

"Our land is some thirty-three odd acres, mainly forest country, with a deep gorge of several hundred feet deep running diagonally through it with a creek which descends in four waterfalls. We are 1,500 feet above sea level on the Blackall Range. Our front view extends over mountains and valleys and far across the Pacific Ocean, while our back view is over mountains and gorges and the mighty mists of early morning and the magnificent sunsets."

#### Tanglewood

*The charming bushland as it calls  
Appeals to you in many ways.  
Near forest glens and waterfalls,  
Giant trees in the strong wind sway,  
Lanay vines to the trees they cling,  
Elk horns, stag horns, tree-ferns there  
With wattles blooming in the spring.  
Of all that Nature has to give  
On every side there you can see  
Designed by God, a place to live.*

PETER O'DONOGHUE.

### Talking of Books

Ah-ha! Books and Empire building? You will enjoy "Grey Steel," which is the biography of General Smuts. There you read of Cecil Rhodes, Kruger, Botha, De Wet, Lotd Roberts and Kitchener, Campbell Bannerman, and Sir Winston Churchill!

Follow this book with "Life Worth Living," by C. B. Fry. This is an autobiography which is not all about cricket or sports. Far from it. You are taken round our island and see the bustle of Fleet Street, with a story about Mr. Arthur Pearson! You are taken to South Africa in peace and war, to India and Australia, to Geneva and Germany, finishing up with the U.S.A. and at the end of those seven volumes you wish "C.B." has written more.

"The 9.15 from Victoria" is the autobiography of an engineer building railways in India and, during the 1914-18 war, Salonika.

These are the three best biographies I have read. What have you to recommend?

G. FALLOWFIELD.



## Storm Damage

The recent gales wrought havoc with many St. Dunstaners' homes, particularly those living in the Sheffield area. H. Wordsworth, who lives at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, also writes:

"We had some luck. The wife and I and our grandson had been to the Post Office, which is about a mile away, and we had just got back when it happened. The ash tin was floating around the yard like a shuttlecock; my wife had left her gas copper in the yard and that was having a joy ride. It seemed as if the house-top was going to be blown off."

But our St. Dunstaner can still see the funny side of things. A fortnight ago, with his garden a foot or more under snow, he said to his neighbour: "Look at my garden. It's as good as anybody's in the street!"

D. Juner, of Ingoldmells, Lincolnshire, was not so lucky. A thunderbolt or meteorite just missed his house by about forty feet. He lost over one hundred pullets and chicks, a hen-house, and a cabin. Earlier this year a chimney pot falling off during a blizzard ruined nearly all his carpets and furniture with soot.

## Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club

A party of twelve, comprising Joe and Mrs. Lynch, Gabe and Mrs. Aarons, Tom and Mrs. Melbourne, Foster and Mrs. McConnell, Les. Hoult, Eric Drew and Skippers, Norm. Fraser and Harry Hall, visited South Australia at the end of January—our bowlers to take part in the Burnside R.S.L. "Diggers' Day" Tournament, and other games. Our rinks throughout the period of four days on which we played were: No. 1, McConnell leading, Lynch 2, Aarons 3, and H. Hall, Sip; No. 2, Hoult leading, Melbourne 2, Drew 3, N. Fraser, Skip. On Saturday, 28th, we engaged two rinks: S.A. blinded soldiers, No. 1, Eric Billingham leader, Maurie Tremaine 2, Jim Whittle 3 and brother, Garnet Whittle, Skip; 2 Rink, Eric Snelling 1, Alan Davis 2, Mark Benjamin 3 and Gordon Nottle, Skip. Although the S.A. boys have been in the game for only eight weeks, as against our five years, and we won, 45 to 9, the play was nevertheless interesting and we anticipate experiencing much stiffer opposition from them in the near future—they are being extremely well coached by their Burnside "Digger" friends.

On Sunday afternoon, 29th, at the Repatriation Hospital Green (Dawes Road) we played a delightfully happy game against the Burnside men bowlers, with whom we were billeted, namely: President Jack Sellars, Vice-President Mick Wagner, Secretary Alf Hawkes, Colin Howitt, Jim Whittle, State President, B.S.A., and Alan Marshall—the Skips again G. Nottle and G. Whittle, and the result—a tie. We were entertained later at the Whittles' home, Lower Mitcham—a grand day for all.

Then came the Tournament, Jan. 30th, 1956, in which 80 rinks of bowlers competed. Play began at 9 a.m., three games of ten ends each were played, preliminary rounds and the final, which was of 15 ends was won by Prospect with a score of 16 to Lobethal 9, play concluding at approximately 10 p.m.—one of the most interesting day's bowls imaginable. Prospect will hold for one year the Tom Playford Shield, a magnificent trophy donated by the Hon. T. Playford, Premier of South Australia. We, the blinded soldiers, feel greatly privileged in having been invited to take part in the Tournament, and highly honoured that our Federal President, Joe Lynch, was invited to conduct the ceremony of presentation of the Shield and trophies to the winners and runners-up.

We played the ladies (our hostesses) on Tuesday afternoon, 31st, and were soundly beaten—at least by 5, the scores being Ladies 25, Blinded Soldiers 21, but they had the assistance of Jim Whittle and Alan Marshall. We considered this game the highlight of our tour—worth going all the journey to Adelaide for—our sincerest thanks to the "lovely" ladies. F. McCONNELL.

## National Laying Test, 1955-56

Report for the fourth period of Four weeks—January 3rd to January 30th.

	Score value
1. P. Holmes ... ..	388
2. G. Cooke ... ..	379
3. P. Bagwell ... ..	338
4. W. Webb ... ..	325
5. W. A. Smith ... ..	261
6. J. Dix ... ..	189

Average number of eggs per bird per month, 12.81.

Average number of eggs per bird to date, 54.5.

## Grandfather

T. H. Tuxford, of Redditch—a grandson  
—Andrew Martin Bridges.



## Why?

About twenty-five years ago there was a sensational murder; at the same time a play was written and was to have been put on. It was so similar to the actual murder that the censor refused it a licence, and I do not think it was ever put on the stage until a few years back. Only a week or so ago a similar thing happened. A play was going to be put on but a number of accidents had occurred that day so similar to the play that they did not put it on. I also remember a few years back a picture going the round of the cinemas where a submarine was lost. Strangely enough, just at that time, one of our submarines *was* lost.

In one of "The Archers" stories there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease and, I believe, within twenty-four hours there came an announcement on the wireless that there had actually been an outbreak.

I could go on quoting a lot of things like this—we call it coincidence.

E. B. OXBOROUGH.

## Fifty-two Years Married

Mr. and Mrs. H. Colley, of Ventnor, were married fifty-two years ago on March 11th. Many congratulations.

## Ruby Weddings

Our congratulations (belated, but nevertheless very sincere) to Mr. and Mrs. John Hibbert, of New Malden, whose Ruby Wedding was on September 19th of last year, but of which we have only just heard. And congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Mortimer, of Hull, whose anniversary was on February 22nd.

## Placements

A. Lane, as a capstan lathe operator with Messrs. Massey-Harris-Ferguson, Ltd., Stretford, Manchester; E. E. Flynn, on tapping, with Monotype, Ltd., Salfords, Surrey.

## Young St. Dunstaners

Melvyn Foster has won a place at Farnham Grammar School.

## Marriages

Derek Leslie Barnett, Morecambe, to Miss Edna Shaw, on February 4th.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Launder, of 23 Arlington Gardens, Saltdean, asks us to say that she no longer takes summer visitors. Will those who have recently written to her please note this.

## Birth

SALTERS—On February 18th, to the wife of G. J. Salters, of Walton, Liverpool, a son.

## Marriage

CLEMENTS—MITCHELL—On February 25th, at St. Luke's Church, Brighton, Melville Clements, lately of Newport, Mon., to Miss Lily Mitchell, of Brighton. They will live at Winchmore Hill.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy is offered to the following:—

CLARE—To J. Clare, of Brockenhurst, who has lost his father.

ASH—To M. Ash, of Burnham-on-Sea, whose mother died in January, after a short illness.

ELROD—To D. B. Elrod, of Norton, Sheffield, whose mother has died at the age of 89. Our St. Dunstaner was away at the time at the Guide Dog Training School.

DONCASTER—To F. E. Doncaster, of Canonbury, N.1, whose brother has died after a short illness. He was 65.

HILL—To H. Hill, of Devizes, whose brother has died. He had been ill for a long time.

HODGES—To Ann Hodges, of Pencombe, Bromyard, whose mother passed peacefully away on February 21st. Anne had nursed her devotedly.

MCANDREW—To J. McAndrew, of Blackpool, whose wife passed away on November 29th. (We must apologise for this late notice, which has only just reached us.)

ROGERSON—To the Rev. C. M. Rogerson, of Sydney, New South Wales, whose eldest brother died just before Christmas.

NEWTON—To Mr. and Mrs. R. Newton, of Oldham, whose baby daughter, born only a few weeks ago, has died.

STEVENS—To A. Stevens, of Winnersh, near Wokingham, whose father has died at the great age of 95. He had been very ill for some time.

VINCENT—To J. Vincent, of Maidenhead, whose mother has died suddenly in Johannesburg.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with regret of the death on February 27th of Mrs. Vaughan, widow of our St. Dunstaner, T. Vaughan, of Brecon, Wales. She has survived her husband only by sixteen months.

## **"In Memory"**

### **Corporal Henry Edward Lane, *Royal Fusiliers***

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. E. Lane, of King's Lynn. He was seventy.

He served in the First World War but did not become a St. Dunstaner until March, 1934. He did not undertake any training as he was able to occupy himself with his cottage and garden on the Royal estate. His health, however, never good, grew progressively worse and he died on February 23rd.

The Dersingham and Sandringham Branch of the British Legion was represented at the funeral.

He had no near relatives and since the death of his step-sister he had been looked after by a neighbour, Mrs. Hipkin, to whom our thanks and sympathy go.

### **Private James Goodison, *Royal Dublin Fusiliers***

We record with deep regret the death of James Goodison, late of Sandymount, Dublin.

An old soldier—he had enlisted in 1905—he was wounded at the Dardanelles and he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1915. He did not take up any serious training but did light work for many years, and for some time had been a permanent resident at West House. He died on March 6th in the Sussex County Hospital.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, of Ireland, who hope to be able to attend his funeral.

### **Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant Henry William Martin, *Royal Artillery***

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. W. Martin, of Dagenham, but of late in West House. He was fifty-one.

He was admitted to the benefits of St. Dunstan's in November, 1954, but owing to the poor state of his health he did not undertake any training. He entered the Sick Ward at West House at once, but his health gradually deteriorated and he died on March 8th.

The funeral took place at Chadwell Heath Cemetery, Miss Ruth Block representing St. Dunstan's.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

### **Private G. Grocott, *1st Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment***

With deep regret we record the death of G. Grocott, of Walsall.

He was an old soldier, having enlisted as early as December, 1894, and he was discharged from the Army in August, 1918. He did not, however, come to us until 1950, when he was already an elderly man and not able to undertake serious training. He had had bad health for a very long time and he died at his home on March 10th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his wife and family.

### **B. Stevenson, *4th Australian Expeditionary Force***

It is with deep regret that we have been notified of the death six months ago of B. Stevenson, of Eastwood, Sydney, New South Wales. Although he did not come to St. Dunstan's for training, we have been in touch with him for a number of years.

He leaves a widow, to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

### **F. J. Grobler, *South African Forces***

We have heard with deep regret of the death of F. J. Grobler, of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

He served in the 1914-18 war but did not come to St. Dunstan's, England, being trained via the South African Committee. He had been gassed during his service and suffered greatly as a consequence with chronic bronchitis. He died at his home on February 2nd.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

### **Dick Alex, *New Zealand Forces***

From Mr. Donald McPhee we have heard with deep regret of the death of one of our Maori St. Dunstaners, Dick Alex, who was blinded and received multiple injuries in Italy. Mr. McPhee writes: "He was a very big man, over twenty stone, and he was rushed to hospital with a heart attack which he did not survive. He was a very fine type of Maori."

He leaves a wife and son to whom our deep sympathy is sent.



# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 436—VOLUME XXXIX

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PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

AT Ovingdean the other day I met A. C. ("Tiny") Pointon, a St. Dunstaner physiotherapist, and he asked me if we could do something to encourage gardening. I told him that we already had a scheme under which any St. Dunstaner who had a garden and could make use of them might receive, free of cost, a packet of suitable vegetable seeds; also he might buy locally seed potatoes up to twenty-eight pounds weight, the cost of which we would refund. All he has to do is to write to the Country Life Superintendent at 191 Marylebone Road.

But "Tiny" wanted me to go further than this, and for a start I asked the Commandant to see if he could arrange for elementary gardening talks or lectures to be given at Ovingdean, which both trainees and holiday men might attend, as an experiment. The Commandant is seeing what he can do about this. I hope it will prove popular and useful.

There is, of course, also the Gardening Supplement which accompanies the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW for those who want it in which timely hints and tips are given, and my wife and I have also found the B.B.C. Home Service programme called "Home Grown," every Sunday at 2 p.m., most useful. Incidentally, I have written to Sir Ian Jacob, the Director General of the B.B.C., asking him if the producer of that programme would include one Sunday a few minutes of advice to blind gardeners, with special reference to sweet smelling or scented plants or herbs.

I have never really had a garden suitable for growing vegetables and flowers, except for an odd year or two during the war, so I have not had the opportunity of interesting myself in this hobby. Curiously enough, "Tiny's" request came just at the moment when I have taken a small fishing cottage on a river in my constituency which has a garden, and that is why I find myself listening to "Home Grown" and taking a personal interest in the subject.

Many St. Dunstaners from time to time have written to tell me how they can feel their gardens grow, and of various dodges and devices for planting in straight lines and so on. I am sure that gardening can be a great pleasure, the more so if one is able to do a little of the work oneself. I call to mind Kipling's lines:—

*"But to take a large hoe and a shovel also  
And dig till you gently perspire;  
And then you will find that the sun and the wind  
And the Djinn of the Garden too,  
Have lifted the hump—  
The horrible hump—  
The hump that is black and blue!"*



## Adaptability

Commenting upon my note last month about one-handed and handless St. Dunstaners, George Fallowfield tells me that a number of one-handed St. Dunstaners have learned the manual alphabet so that they can talk to their deaf-blind friends; even one or two handless St. Dunstaners, he says, can talk to him by signs on his hand. This is indeed a good example of adaptability on both sides.

IAN FRASER.

## The Derby Sweepstake

As announced last month, applications can now be received, *from St. Dunstaners only*, for tickets in our Derby Sweepstake. The closing date is Friday, May 25th. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each.

The draw will take place at the London Club on Thursday evening, May 31st. All St. Dunstaners drawing a horse will be notified.

## Dance—Trevelyan Hall

A reminder that there is to be another Dance at the Trevelyan Hall, Great Peter Street, Westminster, on *Friday, May 18th*, 7.30—11 p.m. This is Whit Friday and if any campers are passing through London for Brighton and can come to the Dance we can see them off on a late train from Victoria. All St. Dunstaners and an escort are welcomed at this Dance without charge, but please write in for entrance ticket to Miss Hoare, Flat 4, 9 The Paragon, Blackheath, S.E.3 (Phone Reliance 1084, Flat B). (We *must* know numbers).

There will be a Raffle at the Dance. Any gifts for this would be welcomed.—A.O.S.

## Camp

Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, Friday, August 17th to 24th. Camp fee, 25s. Entries close on May 7th.

When in camp have your letters addressed *St. Dunstan's Camp*, Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, Hants.

A. SPURWAY,  
The Vicarage,  
Holmwood, Dorking.  
(Tel. Dorking 73191).

## Reunions, 1956

The *Cardiff* Reunion, listed provisionally last month as May 26th, will now take place on Saturday, June 16th.

The *Belfast* Reunion has been confirmed for Tuesday, June 19th, and the *Glasgow* Reunion for Tuesday, July 10th.

## From All Quarters

C. W. W. Cooper has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Worthing Conservative Association.

★ ★ ★

Walter Thornton's factory Youth Club at Bourneville has won the Affiliated Clubs' Challenge Shield of the Royal Life Saving Society for the third successive time.

★ ★ ★

P. ("Mick") Sheehan, who is leaving Chislehurst for health reasons, has been presented with a leather wallet by the Blind Friends Social Club, of which he is Vice-Chairman.

★ ★ ★

An article by Maureen Lees, "The Kipling Stone," has been accepted by "The Lady," while an American magazine has taken an article on weaving. What pleases Maureen particularly is the fact that it has brought her in touch with a New York authority on weaving, who has sent her one of her books.

★ ★ ★

When a grand-daughter married recently, Mr. and Mrs. P. Lynch, of Brandon, Co. Durham, met all their family—four sons, four daughters and twenty-one grandchildren.

★ ★ ★

H. T. Cheal, of Saltford, Bristol, took first prize for the best bowl of daffodils out of a very large entry. The judge remarked on the quality of the blooms and the fact that the plants were in every way perfect, the bulbs being beautifully spaced.

★ ★ ★

For the fifth year in succession, H. F. Goodley, of Pulham Market, took first prize for his hyacinths at the Diss Blind Social.

★ ★ ★

J. Langham, of Arnold, Nottingham, and Mrs. Langham are keen members of the British Legion Club. Mr. Langham is one of our oldest St. Dunstaners. Last year their collecting box for St. Dunstan's raised £33.

## London Club Notes

### Bridge

Drummer is still at Ovingdean and in his absence "Jock" Brown has continued to carry on the arrangements for the season's fixtures. There have been two matches this month so far; we lost to State Express on April 14th and to Willesden Town Hall on the 21st.

Heartiest congratulations to our team in the London Business Houses League, who have finished Divisional Champions. The five members who have played throughout the season—Messrs. C. Bulman, H. Gover, P. Nuyens (Captain), C. F. Thompson and F. Winter—receive medals. Eleven Leagues took part (sixty-eight teams), and our team in their Division had to play twelve matches; they won nine and lost three. The Trophy Finals were played off on April 18th, when St. Dunstan's team finished fifth of nine.

### Presentation to Mr. Bennett

At the London Club on Thursday, April 19th, a presentation was made from St. Dunstaners to Mr. Harry Bennett, who recently retired after thirty-three years' service.

Mr. A. D. Lloyds, who had acted as Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, called on Mr. Sammy Webster, Chairman of the London Club, to make the presentation on behalf of St. Dunstaners everywhere. Sammy recalled Mr. Bennett's long association with St. Dunstan's, and in particular his valuable work in the placing of St. Dunstaners in industry, and as he handed Mr. Bennett a handsome silver cigarette case, he wished him many pleasurable hours of ease and leisure.

The cigarette case was inscribed "To Harry Bennett, from his St. Dunstaner friends, 1923-1956."

Mr. Bennett, in reply, said that selling articles often in competition with the big stores had sometimes not been easy, but it was evident from the continued success of the Gift Club that the products of St. Dunstan's craftsmen had been proved over and over again. Some Clubs had bought regularly for twenty years. The public know the quality of these goods; they bought them and they continued to want to buy them; that was the true test.

Working with and for St. Dunstaners had given him complete satisfaction and happiness. Their gift would be a constant reminder of many happy years.

## Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to the following, who are celebrating Ruby Weddings:

Mr. and Mrs. P. Yuile, of Glasgow, December 28th, 1955; Mr. and Mrs. H. Olpin, of Westbury-on-Trym, March 26th; Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Watson, of Burton-on-Trent, March 27th; Mr. and Mrs. D. Edwards, of Hatch, Bedfordshire, March 30th; Mr. and Mrs. Oldfield, of Walkley, Sheffield, April 22nd.

## Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. S. Dyson, of Bilton, Harrogate, celebrated their anniversary on September 15th last, but it has only just been notified to us. Unhappily our St. Dunstaner suffered the loss of his mother and father shortly afterwards.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Richmond, of Harrogate, on April 11th.

## Grandfathers

T. Callaghan, of Woodbridge (Evelyn, in South Carolina, has had a daughter); J. Lamborne, of Bletchley; P. Yuile, of Glasgow; F. Ralph, of Rottingdean (a grandson); F. Stew, Shuthonger, near Tewkesbury; E. Watts, of Birkenhead; G. Maskell, of Hunmanby (a grandson); H. Boorman, of Peterborough; A. T. Brooks, of Bournemouth (Dorothy, in Australia, has had another little daughter); G. H. Thomas, of Shirley, Birmingham; P. Sheridan, of Wishaw, having been presented with three new grandchildren since March 9th, now has twenty-six in all.

## All the Difference

From Jock Macfarlane comes the following:—

The other day an old colleague of his, whom he had not seen for years, visited his offices and asked if Mac was still around. Told that he was, he arranged to meet him later for a drink. Mac turned up at the appointed place and time but there was no friend. The minutes passed and when at last he did arrive, Mac said "You're blooming late, aren't you?" "Sorry, Mac," his friend said, "but I saw a poor blind chap across the road and took him down the lane." "Well, I've been totally blind for nearly forty years," said Mac. "Don't talk so stupid," said his friend, "You're a St. Dunstan's man."



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I was interested in Mr. Oxborough's article "Why?" in the March REVIEW.

Just before the last war a play entitled "The Flood," depicting the flooding of a coal mine, was due to be broadcast on the Welsh Regional programme. A few days before the broadcast a mine at Hook, in Pembrokeshire, was flooded, resulting in the loss of several lives. The play was taken off and I don't think it has ever been put on since.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. DAVIES, *Llandyssul*.

DEAR EDITOR,

Mr. E. B. Oxborough's article "Why?" must have started many of us thinking about coincidences which occurred in our own lives. Here is one that may amuse fellow readers.

As a small boy I was being shown over Salisbury Cathedral, together with other members of my family. The party, conducted by a Verger, was about twenty paces ahead of me and, having made sure that no one was looking, I took hold of a long rope which disappeared into the lofty darkness above and gave it a savage tug.

At once the great Cathedral bells started to ring out. Terror gripped me, but I was not to be let off with a single peal. The bells chimed on and on. What had I started?

I had expected the Verger to whip round and seize me by the collar; I had expected to see other Church officials come running at me from every direction. But nobody seemed in the least perturbed; nobody seemed to notice anything wrong. It took me quite a while to realise that my act of boyish impudence had no connection with the pealing of the Cathedral bells, for the timing was perfect.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. B. BUCKLEY, *London, S.W.13*.

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to Sir Ian's remarks in the last issue of the REVIEW concerning our reaction to noise.

Answering for myself, I must say it affects me with a nervous irritation. Discordant music which is so often played as a background in the cinema, on television, and radio is an aggravation noise. I enjoy a Symphony Concert if I listen with a large number of people in a hall; this thrills me,

but it is not at all the same listening to the same thing on the wireless. When I listen to an orchestra spread out over the stage with a thousand people or so in dead silence, there is an atmosphere created that you can never feel if you are sitting in a room and all that is coming through a little box.

I dislike a band playing when sitting down to dinner at an hotel. Being deaf in the left ear I have difficulty in hearing what my friends are speaking about. This reminds me that some time ago my escort and I went into the Carlton Hotel, Cardiff, and sat at the only table available, when the orchestra struck up quite near to me. I could not tolerate this, so we walked out. The commissionaire at the door asked me for a reason, and when I told him recommended me to the Grill Room. My escort described the room to me—the tablecloths were emerald green with scarlet borders, the aprons and caps of the waitresses were the same colour. On our way out, the old gentleman asked if all was satisfactory, and I told him all was very satisfactory but the colour scheme. He said in a loud voice, "Good Lord, and I always took you for blind!" I dislike noise, and there is so much that is called music to-day which to me is noise.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM JORDAN, *Hove*.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in Sir Ian's remarks concerning noise.

Much of the music on the wireless is to me merely noise. Some that is supposed to be soothing is just plain irritating, although I revel in music that has rhythm and cadence. It is not music, however, that irritates most. Singularly enough it is that high-pitched signal before the 9 a.m. News on the Light Programme. Also the horrible whine of the air-conditioning plant when one goes into some bars just sends me to the door. I do not think my nerves are unduly frayed, and as I live in the country we are spared the combined noises of city life, but a low-flying plane, especially a jet, makes me duck for cover. The low hum of an electric fan would have the same effect, but the natural noise of the quiet countryside is so accepted that when the eerie silence that precedes a great storm comes, with no birds singing, no trees rustling, that silence is as oppressive as the noises.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary*.

## News from Overseas

W. F. Fox, of Tasmania, has recently left industrial work and he and his wife have taken on a small dairy farm. They like the work and are settling down well. Our St. Dunstaner handles the job of milking.

★ ★ ★

C. H. Hills, of New South Wales, Australia, writes:

"It will be forty years, come September 1st, since I stumbled through the long glass doors at the back of the Lounge and was pushed rather than steered to a very large chair, from which I thought at the time it would take a very urgent crisis to prise me. I do not think my mother was at all happy at leaving me in the care of strangers; I was there on probation for a week. After three days you could not have dragged me away. I was unable to finish my training though, as my old enemy, acute rheumatism, sent me back to hospital several times until Sir Arthur called me into the office one day and suggested very kindly that as Australia had been so beneficial to me in the matter of my health, I had better go back. So it was that I was the first "colonial" to leave for home to try to take, as it were, St. Dunstan's training back with me.

I was born at Orpington, in Kent, so what more natural that I should gravitate towards poultry? Since coming to Bowral, I have only kept a few hens to supply us with eggs. My present half dozen birds have laid 2,567 since they began laying two years ago.

Well, I have gone on and on until I have got a very stiff neck as a result of the extra concentration. My kindest regards to the old school of my vintage."

★ ★ ★

"Eddie" Taylor, of Natal, was taking Mrs. Taylor to hospital in Maritzburg, on March 15th, for an appendix operation. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Violet Hamilton, of New South Wales, Australia, says that her husband still suffers as a result of his gassing. Even so he has built her some very good cupboards and is a tremendous help in the house. Seventeen-year-old Ross is in his final year at High School, with the University as his goal. There is also an eight-year-old son who also thinks his Daddy is wonderful.

Harry Coyle, formerly of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has now moved to Don Mills, Ontario. He says he likes to receive the REVIEW for he always finds there is a story about a friend or place that he grew to know during his stay in Britain.

★ ★ ★

In February, Percy Norris, of Subiaco, West Australia, wrote while the temperature was 108.2 degrees, and little prospect, said the weather forecasters, of a break in the heat-wave. He meets up with Bill James at various functions at Braille House, and is still carrying on his radio broadcasting appeals, with good results for the Rest Home for Aged Blind. A fête was organised for the Home, which realised £500. At one stall at which he helped, a hat, trimmed with a five-pound note, several pound notes and a half note—realised £30.

## Rotary

S. Gobourn, of Cheltenham, is President of his Rotary Club for the current year.

## The Searcher

*The man who searches often hard and long,  
Whose thoughts can come to no decisive head.  
Who knows not what is right and what is wrong;  
Or which dim truth to which plain fact is wed.  
Yet still retains an optimistic air  
That's strengthened by each new breath he draws.  
Believing round some corner unaware  
Lies the answer to the perfect and the flaws.  
Here is a man of great content,  
Content, not of fulfilment, but of quest.  
He is so eager to search, so keenly bent  
Unravelling the maze that will not give him rest.  
And what will happen if this man should reach  
his aim?  
What pleasures will he hold, what treasures will  
he gain?  
Will he run amok through long and dusty streets,  
His hair amazed while tears run down his cheeks?  
Or will he pluck a star from out the midnight sky,  
And chain it fast around his skinny wrist?  
Or will he sprout huge wings, and with them fly?  
No, he will but turn and look at journey's start,  
And realise he has further still to go.  
No deep content will rule his thumping heart  
Until he meets again the mighty foe.  
Real content comes when the last great problem's  
solved,  
And then our hearts shall beat like crimson  
drums,  
And deeper love will then our minds enfold  
While gazing on the efforts of our sons.*

M. VINCENT ALDRIDGE.



## Press Cuttings

*From the "Evening Gazette," Middlesbrough, February 27th:—*

"Regarded by common consent among those who know him as one of the most remarkable men on Tees-side, Mr. Joseph Swales, 'Joe' to all his friends, to-day ends his career with British Railways. He nominally retires on March 10th, but as he has some leave due to him, he hands over to his successor and closes his desk in the head offices in Dock Street, Middlesbrough, to-night for the last time.

"What is so remarkable about Mr. Swales? Just that he lost his sight while serving as an officer with the Tank Corps in the First World War but, after training at St. Dunstan's, so effectively overcame his handicap that he returned not only to rise to a position of importance and responsibility with the railways, but to play a prominent part in the life of the community.

"He served for nine years on Middlesbrough Town Council, but to detail all the other offices he has held, especially in his work for the blind and ex-servicemen, would fill a column.

"Above all, the characteristic about Joe Swales which impresses all who meet him is his unfailing cheerfulness."

On another page of the newspaper was a photograph of Mr. Swales receiving a cheque from the staff and friends. Making the presentation, Mr. E. A. Kindon, district commercial manager, said that "Joe" had been a very real personality and must have contributed more to the office than anyone had or ever would.

"What will Mr. Swales do with the cheque? It will go towards a workshop at his home. He intends to use his St. Dunstan's training in a bit of light cabinet-making."

★ ★ ★

*From the "Sunderland Echo," March 27th:*

"Mr. Frank Green can identify a voice rather more easily than you or I could identify a face. Voices have been his business for 36 years, and in that time he has developed a talent for picking out the little inflections, the hundreds of tiny characteristics which, like the twists and turns in a fingerprint, makes each one unique.

"Faces can mean little to Frank, who is telephonist with the Sunderland ship-building company of Short Brothers, for he was blinded in World War I by shrapnel

wounds. His first job was at Short's, and he is still there."

The article then sets out in detail Frank's war record, and goes on:—

"He is certainly one of the most cheerful people I have ever had the good fortune to meet, and I think one of the reasons for this is his acute awareness of, and interest in, almost everything. Both he and his wife, for example, are blood donors and have been giving their blood regularly since September, 1954.

"There are no heroics about it; he derives great pleasure and satisfaction from the thought that his blood might save a life. . . ."

## Briefly

John Walborough, with Mrs. Walborough and his small son, Crispin, is in South Africa on a holiday visit to Durban, his old home.

★ ★ ★

Some of the items on this page arrived too late for inclusion in the Braille REVIEW. This also applies to Ovingdean Notes and the Report of the Deaf-Blind Reunion. They will appear next month.

★ ★ ★

We look forward to seeing Jimmy Ellis, with Mrs. Ellis and their two little daughters, when they come to this country in July.

## Masonic

On February 15th, St. Dunstan E. C. Jager, of Saltdean, Brighton, was initiated into Freemasonry, joining the Southdown Lodge, No. 1797. In addition to several high-ranking Masons, five St. Dunstan's Masons were also present, Messrs. Mahony, McKay, McLeod Steel, Randall and Rhodes.

## Spring

*Spring is a frolic of woolly tails,  
Of dancing feet and fleecy sails,  
Spring is the nursery for nature's child,  
Echoing life, the call of the wild,  
From hill to hill, throughout the dales.*

*Spring is a portrait, a lovely face,  
Smiling a wealth of beauty's grace,  
Spring wears a garland, a floral dream  
Pervading the air a perfumed sheen,  
A gaze entrancing interlace.*

*Spring is a concert in harmony,  
A thrilling song, a rhapsody,  
Each pure note is blended with the breeze,  
And flows caressing through the trees,  
The voice of Spring, love's infancy.*

JOHN CRUSE.

## Elephants—Some More Stories

"The Elephant is a Gentleman," so sang Kipling, but he never said a word about the Elephant being a lady!

The story I am about to tell is of a dear old lady—her name was Motee—which means "Pearl" in Hindustani. Now, Motee had given a long life to service in the Army hauling big guns—probably she had been present at the Siege of Seringapatam, and probably Clive and Arthur Wellesley, afterwards the Duke of Wellington, had known her—like many old soldiers of her time she had been cast aside in her old age and left to fend for herself. At the time of our story, Motee was spending her nights in the shelter of a massive surface tomb in the churchyard of St. John's Church, Calcutta—the days were passed searching for food in the streets of Calcutta.

All this happened in the early years of the last century, and in Mission Row there happened to live a General who was a member of the Governor General's Council. This gentleman had two beautiful young daughters. They saw poor Motee's plight and took pity on her and adopted her, looking after her and feeding her. Motee, in return, would take the girls shopping and calling on their friends. It is pleasant to hope that Motee passed the remainder of her days in comparative comfort and happily. The above story is quite true and the house where the young ladies lived was standing in Mission Row twenty-five years ago. There was a plaque on the wall stating that "General B— of the Governor General's (Warren Hastings) Council lived there." I once stayed in an old Mansion in Mission Row, and I remarked that the porch at the front of the house was very high. People in those days frequently used elephants for transportation and it would be necessary to have high porches to accommodate the elephant plus the howdah and its canopy.

My reference to Tombs reminds me of a tomb in the old English cemetery in Park Street—some of my readers may know the cemetery—the tomb in question is situated near the street and it is a massive structure and contains the mortal remains of Rose Aylmer, a ravishing beauty who burst on Calcutta society about 1820, but, alas, died very young. On the side of the tomb, facing the street, there are inscribed some

immortal lines written by Walter Savage Landor—the verses are to be found in the "Anthology of English Verse." A friend once said to Landor, "You must have been very much in love with her." "I never met her," said Landor, "in fact, I composed the verses when I was shaving." Another romance shattered.

I said at the head of this article that the elephant is a gentleman, but he can also be a thug and a killer, attacking at sight. I refer, of course, to the wild elephant.

In the vicinity of Dehra Dun, the home of the Indian St. Dunstan's, there are vast Government forests which contain much wild life, including wild elephants, these creatures are protected by law and heavy fines are inflicted on anyone shooting them.

My father, towards the end of his life, became a keen fisherman and one of the fishing grounds he visited was situated at the south side of the forest. In order to get there it was necessary to drive through the gates and pass through the forest—these gates were padlocked. After a day's fishing my father was warned that a wild elephant was roaming near the road and to be careful. He had not gone far along the road when a solitary elephant was seen standing by the road side. The Indian driver, a former forest ranger, started to back the car, but my father told him to go full speed ahead. As they passed the elephant he rolled up his trunk and charged after the car. My father told me afterwards that the speedometer registered 40 miles per hour before they were able to shake the beast off.

Had the car been near one of the exit gates the position would have been desperate, the elephant could have been on them before the gate could have been opened.

Another story of wild elephants was told me by a friend who, with her husband, were very great Shikaris (hunters), especially of tigers, which abound in the Dehra Dund forests. One day the lady, accompanied by her husband—then about 80, she was much younger—had gone to inspect a machan, a platform placed in a tree and used by the hunter as an observation post and resting place to await a tiger. Below, a "kill," usually a goat, is tied, to lure the tiger. While the lady was examining the machan she was attracted by her husband



who was sounding the horn in the car on the road. To her horror there were four wild elephants standing round the car sniffing at it with their trunks. Her husband was unable to drive the car so all she could do was wait with bated breath. Finally the brutes left and she dashed down to the car from the embankment and drove home as hard as she could go. Next day the couple drove out to look at the machan; it had been torn to pieces.

Elephants are very inquisitive creatures and it is said that when a wild elephant is chasing you the best thing to do is throw a hat or something away—this will cause him to stop and examine the article, so giving valuable time for the quarry to make his escape. The taming of wild elephants is largely accomplished by tame elephants, but the African elephant, unlike his Indian cousin, is an ugly beast and untamable.

One of the most popular festivals in Bombay, and a Bank Holiday, is known as Coconut or Gampati day—Gampat is the Elephant God of Hindu Muthology, and my favourite god of all—not like the terrible goddess Shiva—the Destroyer.

On this day fairs take place and booths set up, on which sugar candy is sold—these sweets are made in various shapes and are threaded like necklaces. Larger sweets are made in the image of the God. Much jollification takes place on this day, but the evening is devoted to the religious aspect of the day. Then crowds of devotees wend their way to the Chowpatty sands at Back Bay, carrying on their heads images of the elephant god. The God is depicted as squatting cross-legged—his body is human but he has four arms and the head of an elephant, a really kindly, benign expression on his face. The images vary in size and are highly coloured and quite artistic. At the beach the devotees place flowers and sticks of burning sandal wood at the foot of the image and do puga (venerate).

As the sun sets in a blaze of majestic colour and glory, tinting the whole colourful scene as though in a final benediction, the devotees raise the images of the God on to their heads and commence their final pilgrimage across the sands to the sea, walking slowly until the water is shoulder high, and then slowly and gently dropping the images into the welcoming arms of the Arabian Sea.

D. McALPIN.

## Ovingdean Notes

After having a full house for Easter, when a fairly wide programme of entertainments was arranged, the Summer Term commenced on the 12th April.

During the first week of the term we had the pleasure of a visit to the Centre by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, who made a tour of the Training Departments.

Since then we have had the Deaf Reunion at Ovingdean, of which a report appears below.

### The Deaf Reunion, Ovingdean, April 1956

The number of deaf St. Dunstaners has sadly dwindled in recent years, and there were only four of us at the Spring Reunion. The highlight of the Reunion was a visit to the House of Lords, which had been arranged by General Sir Brian Horrocks, on Friday, April 24th, 1956. At the House of Lords Sir Brian is officially known as "Black Rod," so it was most fitting that he should conduct the tour. Sir Brian cleverly chose his words and condensed his sentences, thus making it simple for the escorts to translate and in turn easy for the deaf men to understand and fully appreciate everything.

At the end of this most interesting tour, the party moved on to the House of Commons, where they were warmly greeted by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser. The House of Commons party enjoyed an excellent lunch, which had been arranged by Sir Ian. After lunch, Lady Fraser very ably conducted a tour of the Crypt.

On the last day of the Reunion the "Muffled Drums" had tea with Mr. Wills and Miss Outing. During the evening they very much enjoyed their traditional farewell dinner.

The "Muffled Drums" would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who made their Reunion a happy and interesting one. WALLY THOMAS.

★ ★ ★

Johannesburg has followed Cape Town in having a Garden for the Blind; in fact, they were opened within a week or so of each other. St. Dunstaners will be interested to learn that one of the prime movers in bringing the Johannesburg garden into being was Miss Marjorie Watson, who, as "Auntie," will be remembered with affection by her old braille pupils at Tembani.

## West House News

Miss L. M. Arnold, our Lounge Sister, is leaving West House at the end of April and is to be married to Mr. Donald George Brookes, son of St. Dunstaner W. E. Brookes, in June.

She will take with her the affectionate good wishes of St. Dunstaners and staff alike.

## Births

ASH—On March 27th, to the wife of M. Ash, of Burnham-on-Sea, a daughter—Carolyn Jane.

BROUGHAM—On March 13th, to the wife of T. Brougham, of Speke, Liverpool, a daughter—June.

FARNEN—On March 28th, to the wife of H. Farnen, of Hastings, a son—John.

NORTHWOOD—On April 9th, to the wife of L. Northwood, of Plympton, Devon, a daughter—Elaine.

PADLEY—On March 22nd, to the wife of J. Padley, of Worthing, a son—Derek John.

POWELL—On March 8th, to the wife of V. Powell, of Shirley, Birmingham, a son—Stephen John.

## Marriages

BURT—J. H. Burt, of Southampton, on March 28th.

JESSUP—STRACEY—On April 11th, G. Jessup, of Hastings, to Mrs. Stracey, of Edmonton.

## Placements

G. W. Dennis as a telephonist with British Railways, Gordon Hill Station, Middlesex; W. Kirkpatrick has taken over the tobacco and confectionery kiosk at Hobart House, Grosvenor Place; H. Meleson as a shop-keeper at Brent Street, Hendon.

## Blind Expert Skier

From a newspaper cutting which has been sent to us we learn that a young totally blind student at Harvard University has become an expert ski-er. He is Abdul Hadi, from Afghanistan, who, before his blindness, in 1945, had skied for years in Switzerland and elsewhere. His girl friend skis ahead with a small bell attached to her right pole and she shakes this as she moves from turn to turn.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with deep regret that Mrs. J. R. Hopkins, of Llanelly, widow of our St. Dunstaner, has lost her mother three months after the death of her husband.

## Young St. Dunstaners

Winfred Seymour (Culceth, Lancashire) is a keen and active member of Culceth Branch of the British Legion, and at the Annual Area Conference, held in Southport in February, accompanied the Delegate and Standard Bearer.

Peter Pollard, Kettering, emigrated to Canada with a friend on April 5th.

Tony Warren, son of our late St. Dunstaner, Norman Warren, who is a Ramsgate veterinary surgeon, acted as midwife when his wife, Dorothy, gave birth prematurely to their second child. A happy picture of mother, father and son appeared in the local newspaper, Tony commenting "... I would not worry at all another time; there's not much difference between animals and humans."

Terry Mills, Tavistock, now Lance Corporal, was presented with a shield for proficiency in gaining 68 marks out of 80 as the all-round best Cadet in the 6th Bn. Devonshire Regiment.

Bobby Croyman, Sydenham, has been offered a vacancy at the Comprehensive High School (Technical Side). He is twelve, and has just been awarded first prize for an essay on birds. He plans to be a zoologist.

## Marriages

Dennis Bignell, Kempshott, on March 24th, to Mary Davies.

Barbara Smith, step-daughter of I. H. Poole, of Redditch, on March 17th, to Stanley David Wall. Our St. Dunstaner gave the bride away.

Nesta Millward, Wooburn, High Wycombe, on March 3rd.

George Wardle, Brixworth, Northamptonshire, on March 17th, to Muriel Grace Thornton.

May McLoughlin, Dublin, on April 5th, to Mr. Shiel. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Dublin were among the guests.

Bernard ("Micky") Brooks, Bourne-mouth, on April 2nd, to Jean Reeson.

Ida Matthews, Bilston, on March 31st, to Mr. T. E. Clinton.

## Fishing Rod

The fishing rod mentioned in the February REVIEW went to T. Daborn, of Bexley Heath.



## “ In Memory ”

### Private Thomas Batt, 16th Warwickshire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of T. Batt, of Saltdean, at the age of sixty-six.

He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1919, and trained in boot-repairing, but later had a country life settlement. He moved to Saltdean in February, 1955, but his health had been failing for some time and he passed away in hospital on April 15th.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Batt.

### Private William Edwin Bamber, 1/7th King's Liverpool Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of W. E. Bamber, of Brighton. He was fifty-eight.

He came to St. Dunstan's for training in December, 1918, and later followed a number of occupations. He had been a shop-keeper, a basket-maker, and a netter, at which craft he was working at the time of his death, which took place suddenly on April 7th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and her son and daughter.

### 2nd Clerk Harold Ernest Best, Royal Air Force

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. E. Best, of Bournemouth, at the age of sixty-nine.

He saw service in the First World War and came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1937. He left training, however, owing to his wife's ill-health, but later took up wool-rugs and then string bags, and it was at this work that he was occupied at the time of his death.

Although he had been in failing health for the past few years, he had been able to get out and about and it was while he was on his way to the shops, on March 22nd, that he dropped dead. He had requested no mourning and no flowers.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and her family.

### Private John William Boothman, 1st Loyal North Lancashire Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of J. W. Boothman, of Torrisholme, Morecambe.

Wounded in France in September, 1918, he came to St. Dunstan's almost immediately and trained as a basket-maker. For a very long time, however, his health had been such that he had to lead a quiet life.

To his widow and her family our deep sympathy is offered.

### Private Roland Henry Shenton, Royal Army Medical Corps

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. H. Shenton, of Chipping Campden. He was sixty-five.

Gas in the First World War deprived him of sight completely for a time, but it returned and although it was never fully restored, he returned to his executive post with the Ministry of Labour—he had been a Civil Servant since 1911. In 1945 his sight began to fail again and he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1950. He did not take serious training, but had a great interest in gardening.

His health had not been good for some time although he had been able, a month ago, to attend the annual dinner of Campden British Legion, of which he was a member.

Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a member of St. Dunstan's Council, was present in church at the funeral service.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Shenton.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

ATHERTON—To W. Atherton, of Bolton, who lost his mother on March 11th. She was in her 88th year.

BATES—To Brenda (*née* Henderson), whose father died on April 4th.

COOKE—To Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cooke, of Rode Heath, in the loss of Mrs. Cooke's mother.

COULSON—To L. Coulson, of Horsham, whose mother died at the end of February.

DENNIS—To G. W. Dennis, of Loughton, whose father died on April 9th.

DYSON.—To S. Dyson, of Bilton, Harrogate, who last September suffered a double bereavement in the deaths of his mother and father within a few days of each other. They were both over 80.

GROVES—To D. Groves, of Grays, whose mother has died suddenly.

HUGHES—To F. Hughes, of Norwich, whose wife died on January 29th. He has also suffered a further loss by the death of his very dear friend, Mr. Stewart, who lived at his home with him.

JENKINS—To E. J. Jenkins, of Porth, Glamorgan, who lost his son, Raymond, on March 19th, after a long illness.

PALMER—To H. A. Palmer, of West Hartlepool, whose eldest brother died in hospital two days after his 76th birthday.

POLLITT—To A. Pollitt, of Patricroft, Manchester, whose grandmother died on March 16th.

POPLE.—To H. Pople, of Cardiff, in the loss of his mother at the age of 84.

SHARAM—To S. Sharam, of Torquay, whose eldest brother has died suddenly at the age of 90.

TAYLOR—To R. Taylor, of Fordhouses, Wolverhampton, whose father died on April 10th.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

HOW many St. Dunstaners, I wonder, share my experience with regard to new activities? Most men and women, especially when they are getting older, live according to some set pattern or, to put it more bluntly, get into a bit of a rut and some special initiative or will-power is required to take on something new. This, no doubt, applies in most matters affecting one's working life, but it is also true of leisure occupations and hobbies. Most people find it hard to fill their leisure time usefully, and this is especially true when you retire. All that I have said about people generally is even more true of the blind, because it is so much more difficult to do everything if you do not see and therefore harder still to do new things.

Nevertheless, I think we should try. The fact that we cannot do many things to entertain ourselves should, I suggest, make us concentrate upon what we can do and learn from each other's failures and successes. One of my failures, which I deeply deplore, is that I have so far failed to learn chess. I cannot imagine a more ideal game for blind people, especially if you can become good enough to visualise the board.

When I was blinded as a young man I had never cared for cards and had never played bridge. The Bridge group at St. Dunstan's did not exist and there was no one to urge me on, and it was some years before, noticing that some other blind people were enjoying a game, I thought I would have a go. Even then I hesitated, partly because I felt that I would make a fool of myself and do it badly, or fumble with the cards, or forget what had been played, or what was in the dummy, and partly out of sheer inertia or laziness. However, one day the opportunity occurred with one or two kindly people to put up with my beginner's blunders, and, to cut a long story short, I learned a new pastime which has given me hours of pleasure during the last thirty-five years.

Although I have had invitations to fish under most agreeable circumstances during the past forty years since I have been blind, and although there are two good fishing rivers in my present constituency where I have been Member for sixteen years, it is only in the last five years that I have become an angler. This hesitation has also been due to factors similar to those I have mentioned, and I now blame myself for having missed many years of sport and interest. Angling, like every other human pursuit, is not only attractive for itself but because of the companionship and argument and tall stories that it evokes. Whether it is sea fishing or coarse fishing, or trout or salmon fishing, there is nothing in blindness itself to prevent the pursuit of the sport. One needs a companion in the boat or on the bank, of course, though not necessarily for every minute of the time. But one can learn to put on the bait, or tie on the fly, to kill the fish and take him off the hook, and to keep one's tackle in good shape, as well as many of the tricks that are necessary for success.



Often the sun or the wind, the flow of the current, or the edge of the river bank will tell you your direction for casting and since a large part of most kinds of fishing is a matter of touch, there are aspects of the art at which the blind angler can become very adept.

From time to time I hear from St. Dunstaners who pursue various forms of angling and I should like to hear more.

IAN FRASER.

### St. Dunstaner's Success at Legion Exhibition

Peter Harry, a St. Dunstan's trainee, won first prize (a silver cup) in the special class for disabled ex-servicemen at the County of Sussex British Legion and Women's Section Hobbies and Handicrafts Exhibition, held in Brighton on April 28th. Peter's exhibit, which was a woven stole in white silk with a silver thread running through it, was also judged the best exhibit in the Show, for which he received a further cash prize of £5. There were nearly 900 entries in the Competition, which was open to all members of the British Legion and the Women's Section in Sussex, their families and their friends resident in the County. There were twenty exhibits from St. Dunstan's.

The well-known writer, Godfrey Winn, was to have been present but he was ill and so his dog, "Mr. Sponge," accepted a gift for his master. This was a silk evening scarf woven by a St. Dunstaner, and was presented by Malcolm Jarman, another St. Dunstan's trainee, who made a delightful short speech.

Mrs. G. B. Dacre, J.P., President of the British Legion Sussex County Committee, was Chairman of the Combined Committee organising the Exhibition, and Major Gilbert Cohen, Chairman of the British Legion, Southern Area, presented the prizes.

### Derby Sweepstake

The Derby Sweepstake has now closed, and the draw will be made at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 31st. All those drawing a horse will be notified by letter the following day. The result of the draw will be displayed on the notice board at the London Club and at Ovingdean and West House.

The Derby will be run on Wednesday, June 6th, and the result of the Sweepstake will appear in full in the June issue of the REVIEW.

### Mr. F. G. Richardson

On April 21st one of St. Dunstan's lecturers, Mr. F. G. Richardson, of Lancing, retired after thirty-one years' service.

Fred Richardson came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1923, and two years later became one of our appeals representatives, under Mr. Ernest Kessell.

In a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, bringing the warm thanks of St. Dunstan's men and St. Dunstan's Council, as well as his personal thanks, Sir Ian Fraser wrote:

"Thirty-one years is the greater part of a working life, and you will no doubt, both of you, look back upon your labours with satisfaction and pleasure, as we do. I have always thought that you and your colleagues have made a very real contribution, not only to the financial strength of St. Dunstan's, but also to the good repute in which our name is held throughout the country.

"I have often read reports about your work, and paragraphs in the newspapers about your speeches, and feel that you have done your work not only in a warm-hearted and human way, but also most effectively; I also realise to the full how much Mrs. Richardson has done to help you and prosper the name of St. Dunstan's.

"We all send you both the very best of good wishes in your retirement."

### A New Book by Helen Keller

The story of Miss Helen Keller is known all over the world. In her new book, "Teacher," she tells the story of her life-long friendship with Anne Sullivan Macy, who miraculously taught a deaf, dumb and blind little girl to speak and to understand. "Teacher," as Helen Keller always called her, by love, patience and understanding led her little pupil gradually into a life as near normal as it was possible for her to lead. Anne Macy herself suffered from failing sight and for the last few years of her life was totally blind. She died in 1935. Helen Keller's book is a record of incredible courage, faith and love.

## London Club Notes

### Bridge

The London County Contract Bridge Association have repeated their kind invitation this year to send five teams of four on Saturday, June 16th. Will members please make up their fours and send in their names to Mr. Bob Willis not later than June 7th. If more than twenty names are received, there will be a ballot.

Congratulations to our member, C. R. Bulman, who has been elected President of the Beckenham Bridge Club, as well as being made Chairman of Committee for the second year in succession.

JOCK BROWN.

### Walking

#### Twelve Miles *v.* Metropolitan Police

Regent's Park, March 24th

St. Dunstan's was at full strength for their annual 12 miles race and match with Metropolitan Police.

The weather was good and the walking likewise, especially the last mile in which Jim Holding (Metropolitan Police) and Billy Miller (St. Dunstan's) fought to the finish. Both returned the same time, though Jim took first place only by inches from Billy. Archie Brown finished strongly in third position.

The St. Dunstan's sealed handicap was won by B. Miller, with A. Brown second and Stan Tutton third. Metropolitan Police won the match by 50 points to 56.

Order of Finish	Actual Time	All.	H'cap. Time	Pstn.
1*P.C. Holding ...	111:52			
2†W. Miller ...	111:52	Scr.	111:52	1
3†A. Brown ...	116:47	1:30	115:17	2
4*P.C. Reid ...	117:38			
5†C. Williamson ...	120:52	2:00	118:52	5
6*P.C. Place ...	123:10			
7*P.C. Grice ...	123:28			
8*P.C. Young ...	125:28			
9*P.C. Dillon ...	127:55			
10†L. Dennis ...	128:15	8:00	120:15	7
11.†S. Tutton ...	128:19	9:30	118:49	3
12†C. Stafford ...	130:12	10:00	120:12	6
13†T. Gaygan ...	130:42	7:30	123:12	8
14†A. Bradley ...	134:50	16:00	118:50	4
15*P.C. Smith ...	134:50			

\*Metropolitan Police; †St. Dunstan's.

Result of Match: 1st, Metropolitan Police, 50 points.  
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 56 points.

#### Five Miles *v.* Bowring Athletic

Tuesday, April 24th

We took an early opportunity to hold the first of our evening meetings on the introduction of Summer Time with our five miles race against Bowring Athletic.

There was some very fine walking over the eight laps of the Inner Circle, with

Mr. Green, of Bowring, setting up a new Bowring record.

St. Dunstan's were a little slow off the mark, and realizing that they were being left behind, quickly rallied and began to make up lost ground. Billy Miller managed to get in amongst the leaders and finished third.

A handicap was held and this was won by B. Miller. Archie Brown was second and Chas. Williamson third. The prizes were very kindly donated by Bowring, who won the team event. Result: Bowring A.C., 24 points; St. Dunstan's, 31 points.

Order of Finish	Actual Time	Allow.	H'cp. Time	Post.
1*Gum ...	41:14			
2*Comber ...	42:07			
3†Miller ...	42:51	Scr.	42:51	1
4*Culver ...	44:24			
5†Williamson ...	44:46	30 sec.	44:16	2
6†Brown ...	45:50	50 sec.	45:00	3
7*Howse ...	49:03			
8†Gaygan ...	49:10	2:50	46:20	4
9†Bradley ...	51:58	5:30	46:28	5
10*Evans ...	52:00			

\*Bowring A.C.; †St. Dunstan's.

Result of Match: 1st Bowring A.C., 24 points.  
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 31 points.

#### Five Miles *v.* C. E. Heath & Co.

Tuesday, May 1st

This was the second of our Tuesday evening races, and should have been a three-cornered affair but the Pearl Assurance team never arrived, and so it was a straightforward contest between St. Dunstan's and C. E. Heath & Co.

Both teams were so evenly matched that only points decided the first result, and this could have gone either way had the leading pair parted company.

All in all, it was a very quiet and friendly race, with St. Dunstan's just taking the deciding point.

A single handicap prize, kindly given by Heath's, was won by Alf. Bradley. Result: St. Dunstan's, 17½ points; C. E. Heath and Co., 18½ points.

Order of Finish	Actual Time	Allee.	H'cp. Time	H'cp. Posn.
1†Miller ...	44:44	Scr.	44:44	3
2*Heath's ...	44:44			
3†Brown ...	47:48	2:20	45:28	4
4*Turner ...	48:26			
5†Gaygan ...	48:46	5:30	43:16	2
6*Taylor ...	49:49			
7*Rackett ...	49:59			
8†Bradley ...	50:07	8:00	42:07	1
9*Rayment ...	54:41			
10*Mills ...	54:41			

\*C. E. Heath & Co.; †St. Dunstan's.

Result of Match: 1st, St. Dunstan's, 17½ points.  
C. E. Heath & Co., 18½ points.



### London Transport Sports 16 Miles

Once again London Transport are sending out to St. Dunstaners an invitation to their Sports and Gala, which will include a two mile walk for St. Dunstan's, on July 8th.

As last year, a special 'bus will be laid on to pick up and return to Victoria any St. Dunstaner and his wife and family or friends who wish to attend.

Full details will be available later, so make a note of the date. W.M.

### Rehabilitation of the Blind

#### A European Seminar

From April 23rd to May 4th, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's acted as hosts to a Seminar on the Rehabilitation of the Blind, which was sponsored by the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind and the World Veterans' Federation. Eighteen nations were represented. Mr. A. D. Lloyds attended on behalf of St. Dunstan's. Mr. Askew was also present at some of the meetings, and on the afternoon of the opening day, Sir Ian Fraser gave an address on "Social Adjustment." The Seminar gave us the opportunity of welcoming two St. Dunstaners from overseas—Colonel E. A. Baker, who is President of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, and Mr. Eric Boulter, its Secretary.

A visit to Ovingdean was included in the very full programme arranged for the delegates.

### David Bell's Important Appointment

David Bell, of Edinburgh, one of our handless St. Dunstaners, has been appointed by the Ministry of Labour and National Service to fill a vacancy on the non-industrial section of the Edinburgh Disablement Advisory Committee.

David, it will be remembered, graduated from Edinburgh University as M.A. in July, 1952, and as Bachelor of Commerce in 1955. He has held many public appointments and has numerous cultural and sporting interests.

### Chess

A. B. Hill, of Bristol, has won the Best Game Prize in the Postal Chess Championship for 1954-55. This Championship is run by the Sports and Social Council of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, which operates throughout the United Kingdom.

### Reunions

The 1956 Reunions began with the meeting at Bournemouth on April 7th. All went off extremely well. Mr. D. G. Hopewell, Member of St. Dunstan's Council, presided, and during the afternoon our St. Dunstaner, B. Glover, of Purbrook, introduced his Hammond organ and played popular music.

The Plymouth Reunion, on April 11th, was tiny by comparison, but was a most pleasant little meeting for men from Cornwall and South Devon. Mr. Wills, Miss Outing and Miss Webster were the hosts.

On April 14th a very successful meeting was held at Bristol. There was a good attendance in spite of very bad weather. Our President, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., welcomed the guests, and Lady Pearson was also present.

At Manchester, on May 3rd, Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., a member of St. Dunstan's Council and a prominent member of the British Legion, presided, while Mr. Hopewell represented the Council at the Chester Reunion the following day.

Sir Neville Pearson presided at the big Liverpool meeting on May 5th, again accompanied by Lady Pearson.

On May 9th we came south to Canterbury, and Mr. Hopewell was the principal guest and speaker, as he also was at Guildford on May 12th.

### A Canadian Reunion Next Year

Captain F. J. L. Woodcock, National After-Care Officer for War-Blinded (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), writes:

"The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded is holding a Reunion from June 16th to 22nd, inclusive, in 1957, with headquarters in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto. Our various committees are already working on the many phases of the week's get-together. There are a few of our far distant members here who plan to continue on to the British Isles for a holiday after the reunion. They are members who reside about as far west of Toronto as we are from the British Isles. There may be Canadians in England planning a vacation in Canada who would like to attend the reunion during the said vacation period, and we would appreciate hearing from any of this group."

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Referring to certain correspondence in the REVIEW.

I recall the story of the Frenchman of years ago who complained of the difficulties of the English language, saying "Ziz English. You say when two trains come together, eet is ze collision, but when two babies come together, eet is twins!"

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MUDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested to read Sir Ian's comments on "Noise" and the replies in the April issue of the REVIEW.

To those of us who travel about extensively on our own, I think the noise of traffic in towns and a strong wind in less populated areas are the most disturbing factors in our movements out of doors. As for noises indoors, taps not turned off in the home and the new-fangled coffee machines are, to me, a source of intense annoyance.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK A. RHODES.

DEAR EDITOR,

Some time ago, a blind girl writing to me, after telling me what she regarded as beautiful, added "But I don't expect a deaf-blind person has any idea of beauty or ever gave the subject any consideration." Now this got me thinking of our invalids and bed-ridden, and so we find ourselves wondering what other blind men regard as beautiful, particularly *our* men.

Yours sincerely,

G. FALLOWFIELD.

[Would any St. Dunstaner like to take up this interesting point?—ED.]

## Sticking To It

Margaret Stanway, of Morecambe, writes:

"I must tell you something that caused my daughter Pat and I such a lot of amusement this morning. I decided the toilet seat needed painting last night, so did the underneath part first, so that it would dry by this morning (I used a quick-drying varnish paint). Unfortunately I must have got some blobs of paint on the actual seat, which didn't dry quickly at all. Of course, you can imagine what happened! To add insult to injury, I did not have any turps., and the only thing I could think of to get this black paint off was scouring powder. It isn't off yet, and will have to wear off."

## From Mr. Harry Bennett

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS,

I would like to thank those who so generously contributed to the delightful silver cigarette case—suitably inscribed—which was presented to me on your behalf by Mr. Webster, the Chairman of the London Club, on the evening of April 19th.

I chose to have a cigarette case because it is a very personal present, and one I shall have with me every day as a constant reminder of friendly associations.

My connection with St. Dunstan's has been a very happy one for thirty-three years, and I shall certainly enjoy a lot of satisfaction from it in the years to come.

My retirement has provided the opportunity for my wife and myself to have a long holiday in Canada. We sail from Liverpool on the Cunarder *Ivernia*, on May 9th, to Montreal, and after spending a few days there with friends, we carry on for just short of 3,000 miles across Canada to Vancouver, where we shall be met by my daughter—who has now a family of four little girls, complete with husband, of course.

I am assured that Vancouver is a fisherman's paradise, and a friend of my family is a keen fisherman who has a 20ft. motor cabin launch and promises me some good sport. I have done a fair amount of fishing over many years and I wonder whether Sir Ian will have to look to his laurels.

We get back to England towards the end of September to continue at home the enjoyment and interest of my retirement, which has been well planned during the last four years.

Please accept my sincere and best wishes for your future, with good health and contentment.

Again, with many thanks for your thoughtfulness to me.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

HARRY BENNETT.

P.S.—May I be allowed to incorporate in this letter my thanks to those members of the staff whom I have not been able to thank personally and who contributed to the wonderful gold wrist watch which was presented to me on my retirement.

I am delighted with it and again it is a constant reminder of the many friendships I have enjoyed.—H.B.



## From All Quarters

John Oriel presided at the annual meeting of the Institution of Chemical Engineers in London, on April 23rd. His war and personal record brought him a reference in the London Diary of the *Evening Standard* and the forthrightness of his address an approving "leader" in the *Daily Express* the following day. Mr. Oriel is President of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

★ ★ ★

At the first meeting of the Grade Committee of the Civil Service Union for sighted and blind telephonists, Jock Macfarlane was elected Chairman.

★ ★ ★

R. Wood, of London, N.W.9, has passed the Civil Service Shorthand Proficiency Test.

★ ★ ★

J. R. Brown, of Nuneaton, attended the annual reunion of his regiment on April 22nd, and the next day paraded at the memorial to the Lancashire Fusiliers who fell at the Dardanelles. He and nineteen other survivors of the landing headed the procession. Later our St. Dunstaner met other old comrades who had soldiered with him from 1906 until 1915, when he was wounded.

★ ★ ★

Although not quite so successful with his leeks as in previous years, owing to the late dates of the shows, S. Purvis, of Seghill, still took prizes in the shape of a canteen of cutlery and a grandmother clock.

★ ★ ★

A Drew, of Moston, Manchester, won first prize for his indoor bulbs in a competition organised by Manchester and Salford Society for the Blind. His show of hyacinths was particularly fine.

★ ★ ★

J. Halsall, of Southport, is singing in a contest at Manchester on May 26th.

★ ★ ★

W. Sherwood, of Trimley St. Mary, near Ipswich, lost a very dear friend as a result of the accident at the gas works at Felixstowe in February.

★ ★ ★

Dixon B. Elrod, of Sheffield, was pictured in the local paper last month with his lovely Labrador guide dog, Dianna. He takes her with him when he lectures for St. Dunstan's and calls her "A St. Dunstan's Service!"

## St. Dunstan's Clubs

In the March issue of the REVIEW, Sir Ian included a note about St. Dunstan's Clubs, and made a brief reference to the constitution of these Clubs, and to the activities they undertake.

May I assume the position of "publicity agent" for all our Clubs, and declare at the outset that we members of the Clubs in the provinces—and in this matter I think I may quite safely write on behalf of the members of the London Club—are very grateful to our Chairman for expressing his interest in the work of the Clubs, and for emphasising to all St. Dunstaners the common purposes which each of the Clubs endeavour to pursue. I am certain that we who are members of a St. Dunstan's Club, and especially those of us who now serve, or have served, as officials or as members of Club Committees, appreciate very much the publicity which Sir Ian has given to our organisations, and more particularly we are pleased that such a strong urge was made to those who have not already joined one of our Clubs to do so now if a Club operates within reasonable travelling distance of one's home.

I feel that scores of St. Dunstaners will support me in my efforts to follow up the publicity lead given by our Chairman. The subject is "alive" in the minds of readers of the REVIEW, and we who regard the functions of St. Dunstan's as attractive and important should make every effort to bring into our circles those who, with a little effort, could very well attend at Club gatherings.

All St. Dunstaners have been informed that Clubs are situated in London, Birmingham, Brighton, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester. It should be remembered that each of these centres is willing to accept any St. Dunstaner as a member, and especially do the Clubs appeal to all St. Dunstaners living within ten or fifteen miles of their meeting place to make every effort to attend at Club gatherings whenever good health and circumstances will permit.

Of course, we are aware that some First War men may sometimes feel it a bit beyond them to get down to a Club, but you may be assured that once you are there you are with your colleagues and you can enjoy the usual warmth and friendliness of a St. Dunstan's gathering.

Also at the Club our wives and escorts

meet and participate in their own arranged activities, and many of them look forward to assisting as games markers or as guides in and around the premises, and in preparing and serving of refreshments. They also share the "spices" of Club membership.

Perhaps I should include a special appeal to the men of the Second War, because so many of them are employed in industry, and may be prevented from attending our Clubs because of their work. I would, however, press my appeal to them because the Clubs which meet during the week do so at a time of the evening which enables members to have a welcome wash and change, knowing that refreshments are served at the Club. As for the Clubs meeting on Saturdays, they, too, have in mind that workers usually need a wash and change of clothes, and they arrange their meetings at an appropriate time. The day of the week and the times of meetings are normally suited to the big majority of the members.

Only a nominal membership subscription is payable and this entitles every member to participate in the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions and in other competitions arranged by the Club for which attractive prizes and cups are allocated.

But what of entertainment, you may ask. Well, the Clubs do not fail here. Apart from the great interest in the Competition games, every Club has its round of outings, and there are parties at the Club, with particular emphasis on the Christmas Party. There are also invitations from generous friends outside the Clubs. These are are extremely attractive functions which often draw a bigger attendance than the average Club gathering, and are an incentive to Club membership.

Like many St. Dunstaners, I am a member of other Clubs, but apart from the fact that I could, if I wished, go to one or another on any evening during the week, I am quite sure that none of these clubs offer so much varied attraction to me as the St. Dunstan's Club which I attend, and I travel about eighteen miles in each direction to be present and to help in every way possible.

I hope every sighted reader of this contribution to the REVIEW will be at pains to read it to a listening St. Dunstaner, and that they, and readers of the braille copy, will ponder carefully on the information given, and will answer this appeal by joining the nearest available Club.

This matter is submitted in the interests

of St. Dunstan's Clubs generally, and I do not anticipate being reproached for taking advantage of the opportunity "livened" by Sir Ian Fraser's Notes in the REVIEW. We have been told that Club activities are part of the general scheme of welfare work, and we are encouraged substantially by Headquarters. At the Manchester Reunion recently, reference was made by Mr. Wills to the good work done by the Clubs, and as a mark of appreciation, and for the first time, the Club Chairman and his wife were given honoured places at the "head table." I sincerely hope that this may become an established practice wherever a Club exists, and that all St. Dunstaners will become "club-minded."

JIM SHAW, *Chairman*, Manchester Club.

### Miss M. M. Davies

Miss M. M. Davies, who has been our Welfare Visitor for Wales and the Border Counties for the past four years, has given up her appointment to marry Mr. A. Cartwright, of Cardiff, on June 4th next.

We thank Miss Davies for her work for St. Dunstan's, and wish them both every happiness for the future.

### The Comparison

*My heart was sad as I looked down and saw below  
me o'er the town*

*A pall of smoke which blocked the sun; ah me,  
this curtain was by progress hung.*

*But up on Pennine's winding way, in air washed  
clean by hermes spray,*

*The heart grows light, the spirits gay, for progress  
here has had no say.*

*Down in the town, 'midst traffic's roar, people  
go scurrying or wait in fear,*

*Hoping their crossing won't end on a bier, 'cause  
progress is honking, cross if you dare.*

*But strolling on Pennine's grass-paved aisle, in  
peace serene and sweet sunshine,*

*People may tarry or rest awhile, since progress on  
Pennine is stripped of its guile.*

*Night in the town, but the struggle goes on,  
criminal and paragon, the weak and the strong,*

*All worship Crævus in the same tongue, with  
Progress usurping the alchemist's song.*

*But Pennine's wealth is from nature caught,  
treasures which spill from the heavenly vault,*

*Free to all, but by none possessed, though progress  
is seeking the vault's conquest.*

*Now Pennine has shed its mantle of gold, and,  
for the night, in silver is clothed,*

*So I must return to the Juggernaut's gold, since  
progress is calling and won't go unsold.*

T. ROGERS.



## Brighton Club Notes

It is with regret that I have to report the deaths of two stalwart members, Messrs. Bamber and Reddish. They will indeed be missed.

Will those interested in bowls please note that we meet every Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock on the Greens, St. Ann's Well Gardens, Hove.

Also please note that the Club meets on the *second* Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

All seats in the Club Derby coach have been taken. FRANK A. RHODES, *Secretary*.

## Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. Sheppard, of Hove, May 16th and to Mr. and Mrs. H. Abraham, of Ardwick, Manchester (married forty years on April 10th); and Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Goodley, of Pulham Market, whose anniversary was on May 18th.

## Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. Eccleston, of Leigh, Lancashire, May 2nd. Congratulations.

## Great Grandfather

Joseph Healey, of Manchester.

## Grandfathers

R. G. Field, of Potters Bar; R. J. Kittle, of Ilford; E. T. Hughes, of Cwmgrach; C. Temperton, of Hull; J. Wishart, of West Stanley (a daughter last December for Lillian); A. Needham, of Swindon, the first grand-daughter; A. Turrell, of Clacton-on-Sea (two recent grand-children, a boy and a girl); W. Judd, of Hillingdon (another grand-daughter).

## It's Your Down, Professor

**D** for the game I love to hate.

**O** stands for old—the required mental state.

**M** for the moron whose game is meat and drink.

**I** for his intelligence in which there surely is a kink.

**N** for nasty tempers when someone calls out chips.

**O** for the oaths snarled from three pairs of lips.

**E** for the excitement when I see in the REVIEW

**S** Some day, some time, quite soon perhaps,

The game's declared taboo.

GEORGE ELLIS.

[What game would you like to see abolished! What is your favourite sporting "hate?" Suggestions and reasons welcomed, but make them as brief as possible, please.—ED.].

★ ★ ★

## Births

CRAIG—To the wife of Stuart Craig, of Wembley, a son—Andrew. (Stuart is a New Zealand trainee).

GALWAY—To the wife of F. Galway, of Sandbach, on April 25th, a daughter—Allison Jane.

HOPKINS—To the wife of N. Hopkins, of Cardiff, on April 22nd, a son.

SWAIN—To the wife of H. Swain, of Kettering, on February 13th, a daughter—Eileen Mary.

## Marriage

MCGUIRE—DAMERALL—On May 3rd, at Brighton, J. McGuire, of West House, to Mrs. Damerall.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

ANDERSON—To A. Anderson, of Letham, Angus, Scotland (our Canadian St. Dunstaner), whose wife died on May 7th.

BIRD—To H. J. Bird, of Clacton-on-Sea, who suffered the grievous loss of two brothers within a few days at Easter, and has now received the news of his sister-in-law's death.

HATHERLEY—To A. Hatherley, of Beesands, who lost his father last September.

HOLLAND—To A. J. Holland, of West House, whose only brother died on April 27th.

KIFT—To E. J. Kift, of West Norwood, who has lost his brother.

POTTER—To H. Potter, of Hastings, who has lost his nephew, aged twenty-one.

RONES—To R. C. A. Rones, of Cardiff, whose father died in March, after great suffering.

ROSE—To G. W. Rose, of Pontefract, whose mother has recently died. She was a great-great-grandmother.

★ ★ ★

We have only just heard that Whaley Austin, of Ontario, Canada, lost his wife a year or so ago, and we send him our very sincere sympathy. Last year our St. Dunstaner himself had a serious operation from which, we are very glad to hear, he has made a rapid recovery.

## Ovingdean Notes

Delegates to the International Conference on the Rehabilitation of the Blind, and representatives from the National Council of Nurses (Ophthalmic Branch) both visited St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, on April 25th.

The former group were received at the Centre in the morning. Experts in blind rehabilitation from some 18 different European countries, many of them blind, they were greeted by the Commandant, who gave an introductory lecture on the work of this organisation. Afterwards they divided into four groups to tour the building and workshops. Particular interest was shown in the industrial section, where Mr. Owens was available to answer questions, and also in the telephone school.

After luncheon the delegates listened to a talk by an American visitor on the work being done in the field of blind welfare in the United States, and after forming into discussion groups they were later able to pose questions to St. Dunstan's senior officials. Earlier in the week, Sir Ian had entertained the delegates to dinner at the House of Commons. The delegates to the second Conference were also shown all departments of the Centre. Their particular interest lay in the planning of the building and in the occupational therapy rather than in the various type of settlements for which our beneficiaries are trained, but they expressed their interest in all they saw here and said they felt the visit helped them enormously in their work in the various hospitals dealing with ophthalmic cases.

*Shooting Competitions*—For the monthly Knock-out Competition in April there were 18 entrants. The winner was Collis Walters, who beat Alf Dodgson by 65 points to 50 out of a possible 100.

This was the first competition since using the new 25 yard target instead of the 50 yard previously in use. This means, of course, that the target is much smaller and therefore requires far more accuracy and concentration. This point was indeed proved on May 1st, when we had a team of 8 members of the Brighton Police Force visit us at Ovingdean for a match which was won by the St. Dunstan's team with a total of 238 points to 217 out of a possible 400. The Police remarked how much more difficult it is now with the new target in comparison with the old one in use on the occasion of their last visit when, incidentally, they had beaten our team. The best shots during the

match were registered by Bill Wild and Bob Osborne, of the St. Dunstan's team, who both scored 42 points each out of a possible 50.

*Garden Party and Sports Day*—With training numbers now down very considerably, we are looking this year to local St. Dunstaners and those holidaying with us at the time of the Sports for a record number of entries. As last year, there will be a number of garden party competitions, in addition to the usual field events. So make a note of the date, everyone—Saturday, July 21st, commencing at 2.30 p.m. Mr. Jarrold will give details on request concerning the field events and Miss Guilbert will deal with tea tickets.

### WEST HOUSE

The deaf-blind St. Dunstaners who were at Ovingdean for their Reunion visited West House on Monday morning, 23rd April, to present Miss Arnold, Lounge Sister, leaving soon to get married, with an ash tray in the form of a ship's wheel. The presentation was made by S. Jordan, of Leominster. Miss Arnold also received a cheque on behalf of the St. Dunstaners at West House, with which she intends to buy two fireside chairs, and she also was given a dinner service from Staff at West House and a few members of the Staff at Headquarters and Ovingdean.

### Sir Ian Fraser on "Gambling"

When the Lotteries and Gaming Bill was debated in Parliament last month, Sir Ian Fraser revealed that he had a bet with a colleague that he would catch more salmon than he will between now and the end of September. He himself had a flutter from time to time. "Life is made up of taking chances and I think it adds to the spice of life to put a bob on the Derby, or take a ticket in the local raffle for a cake or a turkey at Christmas time."

The fishing bet is between Sir Ian and Colonel "Mike" Ansell, and at present the score is, we hear: Sir Ian 2, Colonel Ansell 3.

★ ★ ★

During Maureen Lees' recent illness, she had helped the craft class of Lower Bebington Townswomen's Guild, all sighted members. Recently she was invited to a party there, only to find that it was to be their opportunity to present her with a travel hand-bag, a wallet and a Paisley headsquare as a token of their appreciation of her help.



## “In Memory”

### Private Evan David Evans, 1-4 Welsh Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. D. Evans, late of Carmarthen, who has been living for some time at West House.

He had served with his regiment from 1912 to 1916, and he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1917, where he trained first as a boot repairer and then as a clogger.

A widower, he had lived with his daughters until September last year, when he went to West House. He had been ill there for a considerable time.

The funeral took place at Carmarthen.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

### Corporal George Barnhurst Coles, 5th Bt. Lincolnshire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of G. B. Coles, of Gainsborough.

He served with his regiment from September 1st, 1914, until October, 1915, and came to St. Dunstan's in August of that year. He trained as a poultry farmer but for a very long time now he has been ill and he died in the hospital where he had been a patient for many months.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his sisters.

### Sergeant Wilfred Archbutt Thompson, M.M., 10th East Yorkshire Regt.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of W. A. Thompson, of Hull.

He was a prisoner of war during the First World War, serving from 1914 until 1919, but it was not until 1952 that he came to us, when he was already a sick man. He died in hospital on April 28th after a long illness.

He leaves a widow and children to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

### Private William McCombie, 23rd Middlesex Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of W. McCombie, of Wood Green, London, which occurred on April 8th at the age of sixty-four.

He came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1919, and trained in mat-making, at which he worked for some years. Later he took a shop and he was running this at the time of his death.

He was unmarried, and lived with a brother and sister, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Sapper Harold Arthur Ellwood, Royal Engineers

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. A. Ellwood, of Harrow. He was sixty-seven. He did not come to us until January this year, although he served in the First World War, losing an eye. Some years ago the sight of his remaining eye failed, but when he came to St. Dunstan's the state of his health prevented him taking any training. On April 17th he was admitted to hospital and he died there four days later.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom we express our deep sympathy.

### Private Cyril John Robert Reddish, 4th Yorks. and Lancs. Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of C. J. R. Reddish, of Brighton. He was fifty-six.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1918, and was first a mat-maker and then a basket-maker. His health, however, had been failing for some years and in February of this year he was admitted to the Sick Ward at Ovingdean, where he died on April 21st.

He was a widower and our sincere sympathy is extended to his two sisters.

### R. J. Radcliffe, Canadian Forces

We have heard with deep regret from Captain F. J. L. Woodcock that R. J. Radcliffe, who was with us in 1942, after being wounded in action in Normandy, died very suddenly on December 20th, 1955.

While he was at St. Dunstan's he trained in braille, typewriting and woodwork, and was a very popular and fine personality. He was a single man when he left for Canada and we have not heard that he married.

## Young St. Dunstaners

Gerald Horner (Holmfirth), has passed a wireless (radar) examination.

Margaret Green (Whittlesey) has been successful in passing a music examination.

Going to pass a music examination one day is Anne Maree Wigglesworth, Shipley, who, at six months, is already trying to play the mouth organ. We are told that she makes different notes by sucking and blowing in the approved style and dances up and down in her father's arms to her own tune!

Gail and Hazel Barber, of York (their daddy died in May, 1954) are doing well. Hazel has won a free book of 52 tickets for being the child who has shown most pro-

gress in swimming this year, and Gail has been chosen for her school to sing at a big Ilkley concert.

When Peter Theobald, of Ipswich, was with a Boy Scouts' detachment, H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh visited his school. The Duke stopped to speak to Peter.

## Marriages

The son of A. S. Emerson, of Clacton, on March 3rd.

At Easter, Raymond Burgin, Southwick, to Miss Pamela Dymott.

Agnes Kennedy, Barnhill by Dundee, on March 31st, to Charles Barnet.

Joseph Daly, Liverpool, to Miss Patricia Crosby.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 438—VOLUME XXXIX

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PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ST. DUNSTAN'S has taken the leading part in many battles to improve the status of blind people. Gradually we and others are breaking down the idea that the blind are so handicapped that they cannot do this and that, and are cut off from a great variety of activities. Sometimes it is a question of persuading employers or others concerned to give the blind person a trial; sometimes it's a matter of getting a professional body or a trade union to alter its rules or customs; sometimes an invention helps to get over a technical difficulty.

Men are very set in their ways and adhere strongly to custom and tradition, or to a policy or theme merely because it is well established. Sometimes changing your mind means eating your words, and to some people nothing is as indigestible as words.

Sometimes you meet a man who does not mind swimming against the tide, or backing his judgment against his professional colleagues; the kind of man Kipling had in mind when he wrote:

*"If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you  
And make allowance for their doubting too . . ."*

Such a man was Surgeon Commander G. Murray Levick, who died on May 30th. Murray Levick went to the Antarctic with Scott as a surgeon and electro-magnetic expert and after the First World War was one of the earlier doctors to take up medical electricity. At that time I had just entered St. Dunstan's as an assistant in charge of the new-born After-Care Department, and one of my first jobs was to help the masseurs of that generation to start their private practices, and I found they were handicapped by the fact that the consensus of medical opinion was against their undertaking any but the most innocuous electrical treatment. It would be dangerous, said the doctors. They would electrocute or burn their patients. One of my hobbies was radio, then in its infancy, and I had a crude wireless transmitter and I had overcome the difficulty of judging the way my set was working by devising for my own use a meter with a locking device for the sensitive needle, so that it could be felt with the fingers without damage, and the amount of current ascertained by the relationship of the tip of the needle to a braille scale. We applied this to medical electricity and in improved forms it is still in use. But this was not enough, for the doctors held tenaciously to the view that it would still be dangerous for the blind to do this work; that they could not see their patients' reactions, and so on and so on. And the masseurs' organisation, partly out of prejudice and partly in deference to the doctors' views, refused to examine our men or to give them a certificate for medical electricity. This was where Dr. Murray Levick came in. We explained the whole matter to him, and he was willing to back his own judgment, notwithstanding the opinion of all the others. We suggested



that he set an examination and that he gave a certificate, and he did. A number of the early masseurs worked on this certificate and it opened the door to a remunerative aspect of practice. The pattern of life often repeats itself and in this case, as would be expected, the initiative of St. Dunstan's, the courage of Dr. Murray Levick, and the fact that we were willing to go it alone and defy the rest of the doctors and the whole of the massage profession was enough. To cut a long story short, they recognised us, allowed us to enter their examinations and to obtain their certificates, with the exception of the use of the ultra violet light, which was still thought to be dangerous, but which, I am glad to say, has now been admitted after a further invention, for which the R.N.I.B. School of Physiotherapy must have the credit.

I remember, perhaps thirty-five years ago, Dr. Murray Levick telling some of us in a lecture which many of us attended at the old Bungalow, something of his experiences in the Antarctic, when he and some others were marooned on an ice floe for the best part of a year.

He will be remembered by all who admire gallant explorers, but by us as one who helped us win a notable battle that has made a deal of difference to all blind physiotherapists the world over and, indirectly, to the blind world.

IAN FRASER.

### 1915 Fortnight at Ovingdean

As several St. Dunstaners who were trained during 1915 omitted to book holidays at Ovingdean for the 1916 fortnight, which was intended to include them, we have decided to hold a special 1915 fortnight, from the 13th to the 27th October, and any St. Dunstaners wishing to make reservations for this period should apply to their Area Superintendents.

### Chess Week-End

Another Chess Week-end is being arranged at Ovingdean this year, from the 28th September to the 1st October (nights inclusive), and I shall, as usual, be contacting all those St. Dunstaners who are at present on my Chess list nearer the time. If there are any other men who are interested and would like to take part in this function I shall be very pleased to hear from them.

C. D. WILLS,  
*Welfare Superintendent.*

### The British Legion Conference

The British Legion Conference at the Royal Albert Hall, at Whitsun, was just too late for last month's issue of the REVIEW.

As in previous years, pensions took pride of place and Conference pledged full support to the Council's campaign for a 90s. basic pension. Sir Ian Fraser described the present discontent in the ex-Service community as "a running sore in the body politic, sapping our energy and our resolve," and added, "apart from conscience, it will pay the nation to heal this wound."

Our St. Dunstaner, Mr. E. Russell, of Leeds, whom we are glad to say has fully recovered from his recent illness, attended the Conference, where he spoke and successfully moved a resolution. Without doubt the loudest ovation which any delegate received at the Conference was given to Mr. Bill Webster, son of our late St. Dunstaner, Gilbert Webster, who deplored the present casual acceptance and recognition of the Two Minutes' Silence, and moved a resolution urging "a proper and collective observance."

★ ★ ★

Bill Webster, who met Sir Ian and Lady Fraser at the Conference, writes:—

"I wonder if it would be possible for my most grateful thanks to St. Dunstan's, and everyone who works and has worked for the care of St. Dunstaners, to be expressed. As the son of St. Dunstaner the late Gilbert Webster, I and my family can never repay the debt we owe for the guidance and way of life which your great organisation taught my father. My earliest recollections are all of times spent at St. Dunstan's. Perhaps by working in the Legion cause I can indirectly work for St. Dunstan's."

### Calling All Hams!

Anthony Law, of Pensax-Stockton, suggests that all St. Dunstaners who have amateur radio call-signs should send them in for publication in the REVIEW. Here is the first one:

Anthony Law, Pensax-Stockton:  
G.3. K.N.E. TONY.

## London Club Notes

### Bridge

We held a very successful Bridge Drive on Saturday, May 26th. There were eight tables and the results were as follows:—

1st, W. Bishop and partner.

2nd, B. Ingrey and partner.

3rd, S. Webster and partner.

The Parity Prize went to F. Jackson. Mrs. Willis prepared a very nice tea for us, which was greatly appreciated and much enjoyed.

On June 2nd we met a Four from Hicomind. We won this match and also the match with Lyons the following week.

Our visit to the Masters on June 16th was, as usual, most enjoyable and instructive. Of our five teams the top scorers were L. Cook and F. Jackson, R. Wylie and R. Giffard.

H. Gover expressed our sincere thanks to the L.C.C.B.A. for their generous hospitality. During the afternoon, Mr. Field presented the medals won by our team in the London Business Houses League competition.

JOCK BROWN.

### Sixteen Miles Club Race

We took our longest club race to South Croydon again this year.

Being the last official race of the season this change of venue is, I think, a good thing after the flat of Regent's Park and on a hot day such as May 5th was, makes ideal training for the London to Brighton.

As only six men took part, only two handicap prizes were given (as per Club rules). These were won by Stan Tutton and Billy Miller respectively, but Mr. C. Harrison offered to give a third, and this was won by Les Dennis.

The first three received 1st, 2nd and 3rd scratch medals. The first four were inside the time standard of 2 hours 45 mins.

Chas. Williamson retains the Chittenden Bridges Cup, as the first T.B. man home.

### St. Dunstan's 16 Mile Walk

South Croydon, Saturday, May 5th, 1956

Order of Finish	Actual Time	Allow.	H'cap.	Hcp. Time	Hcp. Pos.
1 W. Miller	2 30 29	Scr.	2 30 29	2	
2 C. Williamson	2 38 14	6 00	2 32 14	4	
3 A. Brown	2 41 09	4 30	2 36 39	5	
4 L. Dennis	2 44 02	12 30	2 31 32	3	
5 S. Tutton	2 51 35	21 30	2 30 05	1	
6 C. Stafford	2 58 19	20 00	2 38 19	6	

Winner of the Dr. Chittenden Bridges' Cup  
C. Williamson.

Winner of Handicap, S. Tutton.

Time Standard Medals (2h. 45m.), W. Miller,  
C. Williamson, A. Brown, L. Dennis.

## Stock Exchange London to Brighton Walk

For St. Dunstaners to go to Brighton is an almost everyday thing, but it is only one day in a year that a group of them set out to walk there.

That day this year was Saturday, May 26th, when the Stock Exchange held its annual London to Brighton walk, in which 35 competitors, six of them St. Dunstaners, started.

Opinion may differ as to why Big Ben was firmly supported, but even so he gave his usual rousing send-off.

Our six members got away to a good start, and as the field began to spread out Billy Miller was up with the leaders, and obviously out to better his last year's performance. The other five were far more friendly and remained fairly close together at first.

The miles passed slowly by and, as we reached the open country south of Croydon the sun broke through, and eventually became a scorcher. From then on it became thirsty work but our boys were well prepared for this, and Messrs. Willis, Harrison and Shooter were then kept busy with feeding, sponges, etc.

All went well for the first half of the race but at Crawley Les Dennis was so thirsty that he sacrificed time and called in "The George" for a pint. The hilly section of the course then followed, but Les didn't mind, he was quite refreshed, and Billy Miller and Archie Brown going comfortably. Chas. Williamson was having trouble with his leg and Chas. Stafford began to blister, but neither gave a thought to packing in. Meanwhile Stan Tutton was having trouble of a different kind, for his escort had blistered badly, and Stan had to slow down on his account, thus losing a considerable amount of ground, and although a replacement was eventually found, it was then too late to make any appreciable difference.

Billy Miller was again third to finish the 52 miles 694 yards course in a record time for St. Dunstan's in 9 hours 7 minutes 52 seconds, and retain St. Dunstan's Cup.

Archie Brown was our second man to finish; he was only three minutes slower than last year. A truly remarkable performance for a man of 60 years of age,



Les Dennis also improved on his previous performance, but whether they were faster or slower this year than last, between them they did a wonderful job, and certainly put yet another feather in the cap of the London Club Walking Section.

Mr. Lloyds, of Headquarters, and a great many others have sent them their heartiest congratulations. W. M.

Detailed results:—

W. Miller (Royal Engineers)	9	7	52
G. A. Brown (5th Cheshire Regt.)	...	...	...
J. L. Dennis (Royal Engineers)	9	46	28
C. Williamson (Scots Guards)	10	35	28
S. Tutton (9th Worcestershire Regt.)	...	...	...
C. Stafford (Pioneer Corps)	11	29	59
	11	49	59

And as Billie Miller did not say how close he was to the winner, here are the times of the first two men home:—

R. E. Green	...	...	8	47	35
R. C. Hall	...	...	8	58	39

### Derby Day

On Wednesday, June 6th, a happy party of London Club members left Headquarters for the Epsom Downs, the object being to see the Derby and fleece the bookies, and between us we managed to do both. The morning was bright and sunny when we drew up on the course next to the coaches from Brighton, and having exchanged greetings with our fellow punters we settled down to an excellent packed lunch, helped down with the right kind of refreshments to suit all tastes. We then all got down to the real business of the day. The racing was of excellent quality, but as the big race started the rain drops began to patter down. That did not damp our enthusiasm, and I noticed some fellows collecting damp notes from the layers. And so to the last race, and then we were away quicker than any of my horses were. The weather having cleared we had a nice run towards home, calling for tea at our usual restaurant in Streatham, and so on to the Club, and by the singing and cheerful atmosphere everyone must have enjoyed themselves.

Sitting down and thinking this over it must have taken a lot of organising for a day like this to run without a hitch. Many thanks to Bob Willis and perhaps a little whisper for Mrs. Willis.

P. ASHTON.

## The Derby Sweepstake, 1956

### Almost a Record

Two thousand, nine hundred and seventy-four! This was the total of tickets sold this year, just failing by thirty-four to reach the record of 3,008 set up ten years ago.

There were thirty-nine horses left in the race when the Draw was made at the London Club on Thursday, May 31st, but this had been whittled down to 27 by the time the Derby was run. The actual Draw was made by Messrs. W. H. Lacey and S. H. Webster, in the presence of a number of St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts. Mr. Bob Willis supervised the proceedings.

After printing and postage expenses had been deducted (£25 15s.), a sum of £346 was left for distribution in accordance with the published rules. The result was as follows:

1st	Lavandin S. Duncan (2662)	Carshalton	£173 0s. 0d.
2nd	Montaval F. Baugh (2331)	Long Eaton	£69 4s. 0d.
3rd	Roistar P. Spencer (2197)	Weston-Super-Mare	£34 12s. 0d.

Those drawing starters were as follows, each receiving £2 17s. 8d.

Affiliation		
Order	H. V. Frampton, Welling	1480
Al-Mojannah	A. G. Emerson, Three Bridges	1194
Articulate	H. A. Baker, Billericay	2061
Atlas	J. G. Healy, Blackpool	2481
Birso Boy	W. P. Nolan, Pontefract	1173
Buisson		
Ardent	L. Scales, Wallington	2970
Cash and		
Courage	H. Day, West House	2365
Chilham	R. Edwards, Twickenham	2873
Full Measure	S. Bush, E.11	2048
Gilles de Retz	A. Law, Pensax-Stockton	2266
Hornbeam	J. Taylor, Hounslow	674
Idle Rocks	G. M. Jordan, Hove	15
Induna	A. Needham, Swindon	1227
King David II	J. Dunks, Ramsgate	2098
Monterey	P. J. Conlin, Brentford	2742
Nimrod IV	E. Denny, Pretoria, South Africa	1972
Pearl Orama	A. Jordan, Mitcham	295
Pirate King	T. Tasker, Tollerton	1915
Royal		
Splendour	W. P. Peters, Huyton	1622
Sacre Bleu	E. Lake, Scarborough	273
Stephanotis	G. W. Elphick, Gillingham	489
Stoney Ley	A. H. Robinson, Rayleigh	858
Tenareze	C. Wilshaw, Worthing	1064
Thunderbolt	C. T. Condon, Basingstoke	1060

The following drew horses which, unfortunately, did not start:—

**Ardent Knight**, A. W. Ballard, Nottingham (852); **Astrologue**, E. Baumann, Ovingdean (2702); **Beaucaire II**, J. Murray, N.11 (2043); **El Rubicon**, W. C. Keast, Clacton-on-Sea (1610); **Fighter Pilot**,

V. J. Powell, Solihull (363); **Goodheart Green**, A. F. Cooke, nr. Hereford (571); **Haut-Brion**, A. Allen, Stoke-on-Trent (2828); **Makings**, J. B. Purcell, Urmston (2935); **Megaton**, W. Roberts, Southend-on-Sea (2799); **Nantallah**, E. Butler, Hayes (1275); **Royal Preserve**, F. J. Mears, Chilwell (1575); **Woodruff House**, P. Ashton, Perivale (1755).

C. J. Pennells, Brighton (2794) drew **The Field**.

### **The South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group**

At the 16th Annual Meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group (Hon. Organiser, Miss M. Jameson, M.B.E.), Vice-Admiral Hughes-Hallett, C.B., D.S.O., M.P., was the principal speaker. At Miss Jameson's invitation, Lieut.-Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., described his own administrative work and interviewed his fellow St. Dunstaners, Squadron Leader A. F. Bell, M.B.E., regarding his achievements as a mink breeder, and Mr. R. Brett, who demonstrated his skill as a handless wood-worker and darts player. Mr. C. A. Luker gave a display of magic.

Also present were Lady Buckmaster, Mr. and Mrs. Jarrold, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Luker and Mrs. Brett.

Tributes were paid to the late Mrs. Jameson, who was an untiring worker for St. Dunstan's.

### **Reunions**

Some sixty St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts attended the Ipswich Reunion on May 30th. Lady Fraser was present, as she was also at the Nottingham meeting two days later, and she brought good wishes to both meetings from Sir Ian, who had been detained at the House of Commons. Mr. D. G. Hopewell happened to be in Nottingham that day on business and he presided at the Reunion which was held for the first time at the George Hotel, in most attractive surroundings, with outstanding floral decorations.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bart., who was accompanied by Lady Pearson, presided at the Birmingham Reunion on June 2nd. This again was a highly successful meeting, being held for the first time at the Market Hotel. Nearly fifty St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts were present to meet Sir Neville and Lady Pearson.

### **Placement**

H. Millard, as a tobacconist, confectioner and newsagent, at Penhill Estate, Swindon.

### **Birmingham Club Outing**

The Birmingham Club held their annual outing on June 10th, to Stratford-on-Avon.

The day was not particularly bright, but all the members were in very good spirits.

There were two coaches full of St. Dunstaners and their families, also our friends of the Red Cross, and Mr. Cooling.

Our first item was a trip on the River Avon; the majority of us participated in this.

We then had a walk along the river bank and crossed via the Ferry, to make our way to the British Legion; where there was an excellent spread awaiting us, also many old friends to talk to, including our old friend Miss Chadwick, who had very kindly given each St. Dunstaner a packet of cigarettes.

Our excellent tea over, we went back across the river to have some sports for young and old alike.

We all returned to the British Legion at 7 p.m. for a quiet drink before we eventually got back into our coaches at 7.45 p.m. I'm sure that we all agree it was one of the best outings we have had yet.

G.B.

### **A Memorial to Bill Shakspeare**

On Friday evening, May 11th, a simple but impressive ceremony took place at the No. 1 Branch of the British Legion at Sheldon, Birmingham. The occasion was a special meeting to honour the memory of our St. Dunstaner, the late Mr. W. Shakspeare, M.B.E. A new quiet Reading Room, The Shakspeare Room, was opened and a portrait of Mr. Shakspeare, with a commemorative plaque, was unveiled.

Lieut.-Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., R.N., represented the President of the British Legion and Chairman of St. Dunstan's.

The Branch Padre conducted a short Memorial Service and paid tribute to Bill Shakspeare as a man. Commander Buckley spoke of his long association with St. Dunstan's and of the material and personal way in which Bill had always expressed his gratitude for St. Dunstan's help to him.

Bill Shakspeare was held in highest esteem by the officers and members of the Sheldon No. 1 Branch of the British Legion. The Branch, which now has about four hundred members, has been built up largely through our late St. Dunstan's efforts.

A number of St. Dunstaners living in the Birmingham area were present at the ceremony.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

*There was a young woman who hated cricket,  
Who said "I don't know how I'll stick it.  
When'er I switch on a radio program  
It's cricket! And cricket! And cricket!*  
(Mrs.) M. STANWAY, *Morecambe.*

DEAR EDITOR,

The sport I hate is the spoil-sport.  
A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in Sir Ian's Notes in the REVIEW on gardening. May I suggest as a gardener of many years' experience "Don't start now." You will find it very irksome and tiring unless you are able to have raised flower beds just above knee height. I am now in the midst of reclaiming a very neglected garden and am cursing every minute of it. I am doing it now as a necessity and not for pleasure. Don't believe Kipling. You will drip with sweat, not "gently perspire."

S. F. PRIDEAUX, *Eastry, Sandwich.*

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to the heading "Young St. Dunstaners." Are there any young St. Dunstaners? Surely not. We are men of St. Dunstan's, but there are no young St. Dunstaners. I think they might be termed "St. Dunstaners' Youngsters." I contend that the title is wrong. I read and appreciate all the news of the children of our men and am interested to hear of them.

ALFRED BENNETT, *Dover.*

[In September, 1929, there was a column in the REVIEW headed "St. Dunstan (*sic*) Juniors, and it began "Young St. Dunstaners have been covering themselves with glory to such a degree that they deserve separate notes . . ." After that, they had separate notes, and these were always headed "Young St. Dunstaners." Do St. Dunstaners want us to change now? If so, are there any more suggestions for a better title?—ED.]

DEAR EDITOR,

Re new activities, I share Sir Ian's experience.

In 1952 my wife and I joined an Old People's Club and in 1953 seventeen of us formed a singing group. Since then we have given over fifty concerts. Before we started this Group, I had never thought of singing from a concert platform.

J. R. BURTON, *Portchester.*

## Manchester Club Notes

On March 9th, 1956, the Club decided to create the additional honorary appointment of President and proceeded to elect Mrs. L. Lang as the first President of the Club. This appointment is well justified and acknowledges the valuable services rendered to the Club since its inception in 1948, and Mrs. Lang's continued interest in all matters relating to Club activities.

We have again to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Charles Clarke (son of our "Nobby" Clarke) for his generous support of the Club, and for cigarettes.

It has been our pleasure to welcome two new members, Messrs. John McDermott and George L. Edwards, and we hope that they may find the various activities a source of attraction and interest.

On June 1st, a Domino Drive was held instead of an intended Whist Drive. This arrangement enabled all the members to take part. The winner was Walter Bramley and the close runner-up was Bill Bentley.

The Club Outing to the Railway Hotel, Pleasington, at the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, will take place on Saturday, 30th June.

Owing to our Hon. Secretary having taken up residence in South Devon, Mrs. E. M. Dunphy reluctantly tendered her resignation as from June 1st, 1956. Appropriate resolutions of appreciation and thanks for her services were carried unanimously. As Mrs. Dunphy specially requested "No presentation, please," we are glad that we took the liberty of presenting her with a book-token recently when she went south for a "holiday."

In recognition of Mrs. Dunphy's past devotion to Club administration and of her general interest in the well-being of members, she has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Club.

JIM SHAW, *Chairman.*

## Guide Dogs on Buses

It was recently brought to Sir Ian's notice that guide dogs were not permitted to travel with blind passengers on the buses of Sheffield Corporation.

Sir Ian has now heard from the Minister of Transport that, following representations to the President of the Municipal Passenger Transport Association, "the one undertaking which did not permit the carriage of guide dogs has now agreed to come into line with the others."

## Talking Book Library

### May Models

At last there are five releases to offer a short report upon. Here they are:—

"The Golden Spaniard," by Dennis Wheatley, reader Peter Fettes, takes one back to the Civil War of 1936-37. The lovely girl aristocrat, covered by the title, in league with an Englishman and a Count, hunts a vast treasure in the bloody upheaval of war for use on the Franco side. An English Jew and an American hunt the same gold for use on the Communist side. There are exciting moments in the thrust and counter-thrust of the opposing parties, with a satisfying and emotional denouement. *Cat. No. 954.*

"Shirley," by Charlotte Brontë, reader Redvers Kyle, is set in Yorkshire in Chartist times. Two brothers, one a mill-owner, one a tutor, together with Shirley and the rector's niece, work out a romance punctuated by riot and attempted murder. Quite as good and rather less morbid than Jane Eyre. *Cat. No. 955.*

"The Crooked Wall," by Faith Compton-Mackenzie, reader Robin Holmes, traces the life of a girl and her friend through two disastrous marriages. A man of mature years hovers in the background worshipping and advising. Two old school mistresses help the heroine from time to time, but she has to retire to Italy when accused of poisoning her second husband. All told the story holds one's interest without hitting tremendous heights. *Cat. No. 957.*

"The Chequer Board," by Nevil Shute, reader Stephen Jack, I found most entertaining. Four men meet in a Cornish hospital early on in the recent war. One of the four, after the war, knowing he has not long to live, becomes obsessed by the fate of the other three. The divergence and converging of the four lives is most interesting. *Cat. No. 959.*

"The Edwardians," by E. Sackville West, reader Jack de Manio. An aspect of life in the early years of this century, written by a man whose youth coincided with the period. To readers whose youth fell in those days this book might be nostalgic, but to a youngster like myself it seems a glimpse of the past through the rosy spectacle of a happy, early manhood. *Cat. No. 960.*

"The Chequer Board" is my nap selection. "NELSON."

## Liverpool Club Notes

On the last Saturday in April we held our annual general meeting and election of officers for 1956-57. The following were elected to office: *President*: Captain E. Holloway; *Secretary*: T. Milner; *Treasurer*: T. Kinder; *Chairman*: J. Blakely; *Committee*: J. C. Owens (*Vice-Chairman*), J. Davies, T. Cooper, A. Lincoln, Violet Formstone; *Games Master*: H. Formstone.

We cordially invite all St. Dunstaners on Merseyside to become members of the Club. We meet every other Saturday at 3 p.m. in Sefton Hall, British Legion, Lece Street.

On June 2nd the Club paid a visit to our old friends, the members of the Darts Club at Pleasington's Railway Hotel; we were welcomed by our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Hindle and members of the Club. We were very glad to meet Mr. and Mrs. Bob Britton, who are the pioneers of these very pleasant and enjoyable functions. We were very glad to have with us Miss Doel who, alas, we are shortly losing, and her successor, Miss P. W. Everett, who was introduced to us all.

After a very nice "knife and fork" tea, to which all did full justice, we proceeded to the serious business of the evening, trying to beat our friends at darts. After a very close finish they managed to beat us by one game, 6-5. Dominoes were played in the snug, but nobody lost or gained a fortune even with a penny a knock, whatever this is.

After a short but very enjoyable evening, with suitable speeches of thanks to our friends and hosts, we left for home at 8.45 p.m., tired and happy and sober.

Our next outing will be the summer one, of which details will be announced later.

"SWANNEE."

### Grandfathers

J. Thompson, of Parkstone, Dorset; T. Milner, of Liverpool (both daughters presented him with grandchildren in the same week); S. Molesey, of Halesowen; G. Nancarrow, of Newquay; F. Rodwell, of Tring (his second); L. Price, of London, E.12; J. E. Lambourne, of Bletchley; W. J. S. Pearce, of Hendon (his second); H. Perrett, of Devizes; R. G. Field, of Potters Bar (the second); J. McDonald, of Oldham (the twenty-fourth); J. Davies, of St. Neots; H. V. Frampton, of Welling; E. Waldron, of Weston-super-Mare.



## From All Quarters

During Brighton's recent week of efforts in aid of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, W. ("Ginger") Taylor won first prize in a Disabled Hand-Weavers Competition with a scarf. Harry Bland was awarded second prize. This follows "Ginger's" success last month, when he was runner-up to Peter Harris in the big Handicrafts Competition, organised by the County of Sussex British Legion and Women's Section.

★ ★ ★

C. W. W. Cooper, of Worthing, who was recently elected Vice-Chairman of the Worthing Divisional Conservative Association, has been elected by the Association to be Worthing Representative on the South Eastern Provincial Area Council of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations. The Divisional Association has a membership of approximately 14,000.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton, who has been appearing in Eddie Calvert's Road Show, as many who met him at Brighton will remember, has now made a gramophone record with the famous trumpeter. They have featured in a trumpet and vocal arrangement of "You Above All" and "The Bells of St. Mary's," accompanied by Norrie Paramor and his Orchestra (Columbia).

★ ★ ★

Our Malayan St. Dunstaner, Samat bin Samat, of North Shields, has a nephew, Milan, who is a film actor at Pinewood Studios, and Samat was thrilled when Mrs. Omar told him that she had seen Milan, with his two children, in the film "A Town Like Alice." Until his marriage, Milan also lived in North Shields in Mrs. Omar's boarding-house.

★ ★ ★

W. Griffiths, of Blackburn, who has a grand hobby—singing—finds a tape recorder of great help to him in his lessons. He records them and then practices on his own; it helps him too in learning the words of new songs. Bill frequently entertains at a local Club.

★ ★ ★

Bob Britton is another St. Dunstaner who rarely has any spare time. One of his great interests is the Royal School for Deaf Children at Blackburn. He and Mrs. Britton arrange parties for the little ones, many of whom are also dumb, and provide

delicious home-made food for the children, whose ages range from 3-11.

★ ★ ★

Dan Barker has sent us some interesting press-cuttings describing the opening of the new headquarters of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Toronto. One of the most modern buildings of its kind in the world, it has been named Bakerwood, in honour of the two men who have done so much to aid the blind in Canada, Col. E. A. Baker (our own "Eddy" Baker) and Lewis M. Wood, its president from 1918-1954. The ceremony was performed by Governor General Vincent Massey, who paid high tribute to the work done by Colonel Baker and Mr. Wood.

★ ★ ★

V. Powell, of Solihull, who is on inspection work in a bakelite department of Messrs. Joseph Lucas, Ltd., had a half-page "write-up" in the April number of the firm's beautifully produced magazine, "Reflections." It described Victor's war record, his hobbies, and his lovely Alsatian guide dog, Gilda. A splendid photograph of them together accompanied the article.

★ ★ ★

From the "Perth Sunday Times" comes news of Trevor Baker, who was one of a group of nineteen Australians in training at Ovingdean in 1948. Trevor completed his training here and returned home in 1950 to take up a post as a switchboard operator with Shell Petroleum Company in Perth. The newspaper article says, "Perth comes first with blind telephone operator . . . Blind war veteran Trevor Baker has been offered a job on the switchboard at Shell Co. Head Office, Melbourne, but feeling too well settled here, he has turned it down. Melbourne's offer shows how highly Trevor's efficiency on the switchboard at the Shell installation, North Fremantle, is regarded. . . . Installation manager, Mr. Lance Kelton, said that Trevor was the best operator he had known . . . Trevor has studied uses of oil and other products."

★ ★ ★

A little grand-daughter has been born to Mrs. M. J. Printie, of Edinburgh. Our St. Dunstaner, therefore, who died in January, did not live to see his little grand-child.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. J. R. Hopkins of Llanelly, widow of our St. Dunstaner, who died recently, has

also become a grandmother. A little grandson was born on June 4th.

★ ★ ★

Wilfred Pickles' full-page article in "Illustrated" on June 9th was almost wholly devoted to Dickie Richardson, of Worcester. Wilfred recalled that, when he was doing "Have a Go" at Ovingdean shortly after the war, he met Dickie and promised to be his first customer when he opened his shop. Wilfred kept his promise. The article was illustrated by a picture of Wilfred with Dickie and Eileen Richardson and their lovely twins, and he called them "One of the finest families I've ever met."

★ ★ ★

J. Halsall, of Southport, had a double thrill on Cup Final Day. He saw the match and was on "In Town To-night" later. It all happened because he asked a local visitor for the blind if she knew how he could get to the Final. This was managed and another local official suggested him for the T.V. feature later. After the show he chatted for about a quarter of an hour with Norman Wisdom. One of the nicest sequels was that after the broadcast he was called to the telephone at the B.B.C. It was an old Southport friend, now working in London, who had seen him on T.V.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Muller, the widow of our South African St. Dunstaner who died last year, visited Headquarters recently. She is spending a holiday here. She brought us good news of the 36-year-old son of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. Nava. For the first eighteen years of his life he enjoyed perfect health. Then, following an accident, he became crippled, being paralysed in the knees and hips. Now a rare operation performed upon him by a Pretoria surgeon has enabled him to walk with crutches. Soon he hopes to lay these aside and walk naturally.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith, of Guildford, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 4th. With them on this grand occasion were their children, and grandchildren and Mrs. Smith's bridesmaid of fifty years ago.

### Ruby Weddings

Warm congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Whitthorn, of Exeter, whose fortieth wedding anniversary was on June 17th, and to Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Shayler, of Liverpool (June 21st).

## Ovingdean Garden Party and Sports Day

A reminder to local St. Dunstaners that the Ovingdean Garden Party and Sports Day will be held on Saturday, July 21st, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Ask Mr. Jarrold for details of the field events and get in touch with Miss Guilbert if you want tea tickets.

### From "Smithie" (V.A.D.)

*I would like to say "Thank you" for six happy years*

*To the "Boys" who have helped me along;  
Allowed me to share in their laughter . . . and tears,*

*And to join in the odd spot of song!*

*It's been grand to know you! I'm proud that we met!*

*And, now that the time's come to go,*

*I want you to know that I'll never forget . . .*

*So, God bless! . . . All the best . . . Cheerio!*

## Young St. Dunstaners

Cyril Relf, Slough, has passed his examination for Petty Officer, with distinctions in General Knowledge, English and Geography. He is thus following his father, our St. Dunstaner Arthur Relf, who was himself a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy.

★ ★ ★

Arthur Dakin, Blackpool, who plays the drums, met the American band leader, Stan Kenton, when he was in this country recently and was photographed with him. Arthur has just passed his driving test—a car of some sort is necessary when you have to carry drums around.

★ ★ ★

Senga Boseley, who lives at Wallasey, has been chosen by popular ballot to be this year's Rose Queen. The ballot was carried out twice to ensure fairness, and on both occasions Senga came out with almost a unanimous majority. She is to be crowned officially on Saturday, June 23rd.

★ ★ ★

Sally and Monica Kemp, Porkellis, Cornwall, have been awarded first class certificates in the recent Scripture Examinations of the Methodist Youth Department.

### Marriage

Harry Simpson, Aylesbury, on June 2nd.



## “In Memory”

### Private William Rickaby, *Durham Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of W. Rickaby, of Battersea, which occurred on May 28th at the age of sixty-one.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in November, 1924, and trained as a basket-maker, and he carried on this craft until the last war. In recent years he had been making wool rugs.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

### Private Edward Hayes, *Royal Air Force*

We record with deep regret the death of E. Hayes, who for a great number of years has been a resident at West House. He died on May 26th, at the age of eighty-eight.

He served from 1918 to 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in 1921, but was unable to undertake any training. He became a permanent resident of West House, where he was a great favourite with men and staff alike.

He was taken home to Wales for the funeral, and our deep sympathy is extended to his niece, Mrs. Devaney, and her husband, who had been such good friends to him.

### Private Charles Wilshaw, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. Wilshaw, of Worthing. He was seventy.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918, and trained as a mat-maker, and he continued with this work until the end of 1950.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Wilshaw, whom he married in October of last year, and to his two adopted children. He lost his first wife in 1953.

### Private James Matthew Branegan, *Australian Imperial Forces*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of our oldest St. Dunstaners, J. M. Branegan, of Whitby, Yorkshire. He was eighty-four.

He began his service in 1915 and came to St. Dunstan's in the latter part of 1916, having lost his sight at Armentieres. He suffered injuries also to his left hand. He trained as a mat-maker and returned for a short while to Australia, but his sister died soon after his arrival and he returned to this country. His age had prevented him from doing much work and he was a frequent holiday visitor to West House, where he also was a great favourite with everyone.

His death occurred very suddenly at his home in Whitby. He was a single man and our deep sympathy is extended to his niece, Miss Hutton, and to the other members of his family.

### E. T. Wookey and R. Latham, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. A. F. McConnell of the death of E. T. Wookey, of Castlemaine, Australia, who served in the First World War but never came to St. Dunstan's, and of R. Latham, of Merbien, who was a prisoner-of-war in the last war.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Wookey and to Mr. Latham's relatives.

### Lance Corporal Dick Alex, *M.M., 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force*

We have heard with deep regret from Mr. D. M. Dougherty, Hon. Secretary of the New Zealand Blinded Services Association, of the death of Dick Alex, M.M., a Maori lad.

This St. Dunstaner was awarded the Military Medal for outstanding bravery and devotion to duty at Cassino in March, 1944, and the citation ends: "By his personal bravery and fine work throughout the action he was instrumental in saving many lives and in alleviating the suffering of the wounded."

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and family and to his comrades who mourn his loss.

## Births

BENSON—On June 6th, to the wife of R.

Benson, of Farnborough, a daughter—Sharron Clair.

HARRIS—On June 3rd, to the wife of J. Harris, of Coversham, near Reading, a son—Howard James.

HOMEWOOD—On May 20th, to the wife of R. Homewood, of East Dereham, a son—Gary.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BIRCHALL—To J. W. Birchall, of Layton, Blackpool, who lost his younger brother following an emergency operation.

GUNN—To J. Gunn, of Gravesend, and Mrs. Gunn. Their son-in-law has died

suddenly as the result of an accident, and his death has been a very great shock.

ROYLANCE—To J. Roylance, of Atherton, Manchester, who has suffered two bereavements in the last few months. His father died in January at the age of 92 and his brother died in March.

TAYLOR—To F. Taylor, of Worcester Park, in the loss of his mother. He is a single man and his home was with her.

WOOLLEN.—To A. Woollen, of Leyton, whose mother died on May 18th at the age of 91.

## Marriage

CARTWRIGHT—DAVIES.—On June 4th, A. Cartwright, of Llandaff North, Cardiff, to Miss M. M. Davies.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

" . . . And then I turned to the left and went down a flight of stairs with a crash. The funny thing was that I forgot I was blind."

SO a St. Dunstaner wrote to me the other day. Once I did almost the same thing myself on board ship. Like him I was thinking of something else. But this story suggests that I generally remember that I am blind, and that is not so. My normal condition is one in which I do not think about the fact of blindness at all. Now and then something goes wrong and I am brought up with a jerk to the realisation that I cannot see, but my normal attitude is not to think about it. This is not bravado or a pose. I am sure it is shared by most St. Dunstaners. That you can get used to almost anything is, I believe, true.

My experience is that as you get older you follow your usual routine more or less automatically and do not specifically think of blindness. Finding your way about, eating your food, getting dressed, doing your accustomed work, all these things become almost mechanical operations done as second nature. Whatever the explanation, what better text to guide a St. Dunstaner, or any other sightless person, than my friend's remark, "The funny thing was that I forgot I was blind."

I often dream that I can see while remembering that I am blind. What I mean is that I see the characters in the dream and react accordingly, but at the same time I am aware that I am blind.

In my vanity I am sometimes proud of my prowess in discerning this or that in spite of blindness. What a curious thing that the recollection of sight should persist after forty years. I wonder what you dream.

IAN FRASER.



## The Rev. G. L. Treglown to Broadcast Again

The Rev. G. L. Treglown has been invited by the B.B.C. to conduct the People's Service on the Light Programme on all four Sunday mornings in August. The theme of this series of talks will be, "This Modern Age."

## Dance—Trevelyan Hall

A Dance for all St. Dunstaners and their escorts who can come—and especially for men who were at Tembani, South Africa—will be held on Friday, September 7th, from 7.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Trevelyan Hall, St. Anne's Lane, Great Peter Street, off Great Smith Street, Westminster. Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Ellis will be in England and are coming, and they look forward to seeing old Tembani friends.

Miss Cox hopes to be there. Any St. Dunstan's staff, present or past, will be very welcome.

Let's make it a Reunion of people who don't often meet.

Tickets, which will be 5s. double (3s. single), to be obtained *a week beforehand* please, from either Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking (Telephone Dorking 73191), or from Miss Hoare, Flat 4, 9 The Paragon, Blackheath, S.E. (Telephone (office hours) Reliance 1084).

Make a note of the date now—Friday, September 7th.

## Evening Song

*Go on with your song, happy bird,  
While I pause in the evening's flush  
of incensed gold, that softly melts  
Through rainbow shades to twilight blue.*

*Your voice flows on, shy speckled friend,  
In carefree streams of fluted mirth,  
Beside the fragrant reverie  
Of closed blooms, into my dreaming.*

*I listen with the hush that seems  
To fall in reverence at dusk,  
Then as the last note fades, I sigh  
Goodnight, and thank my God for you.*

*Each moment lilted love and held  
In every fluent cadence, joy  
Of life . . . careless for tomorrow;  
The night is cold when you are gone.*

JOHN CRUSE,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

## Reunions Continued

We resumed our June Reunions with meetings at Belfast and Dublin on the 19th and 21st respectively. Mr. D. G. Hope-well, member of St. Dunstan's Council presided on both occasions and Mr. Macauley was also a welcome visitor to both meetings. At Belfast the afternoon was noteworthy for the presentation to Miss Boyd (who succeeded Mr. Macauley) of a cheque for a wedding present. St. Dunstaner Miss E. Wilson made the presentation on behalf of the men of Northern and Southern Ireland.

At the Dublin Reunion, St. Dunstaners were delighted to meet Major the Lord Carew, a member of the National Executive Council of the British Legion, who in his speech, at the request of a St. Dunstaner, gave a résumé of the proceedings of the Legion Conference and its result.

Both meetings, although small, were much enjoyed, and there was the usual high-spirited singing and entertainment.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, to everybody's pleasure, were able to be present at the Luton Reunion on June 30th. Some fifty St. Dunstaners and their escorts gathered for a very happy meeting. With Sir Ian was Mrs. Nolan, a visitor from South Africa. During the afternoon the Vauxhall Girls' Choir gave a concert of songs which were very popular.

An even larger gathering than last year was at the Doncaster Reunion on July 7th. Sir Neville Pearson, our President, who was accompanied by Lady Pearson, presided. One reference in Sir Neville's speech was received with great regret by those present—the fact that Miss A. Smith, Welfare Visitor and organiser of the meeting, was soon to retire.

## Married 54 Years

On July 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Stringer, of Levenshulme, Manchester, had been married for fifty-four years.

## Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. G. Hadfield, of Ottery St. Mary, June 1st.

## Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. F. Middleton, of Willerby, near Hull, June 16th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Scofield, of Alton, July 16th.

Congratulations all!

## London Club

### Indoor Section

On July 4th a party from the Club was entertained by the Association of Jewish Ex-service Men and Women, at the Holborn Civil Defence Club.

We were asked to bring along a team for darts, and, as I have mentioned in the past, we were able to muster a team of "ten old dependables," those members who turn out regularly as and when wanted.

We had a very good evening, and a grand welcome from this club, in which we were right well entertained, and everyone went home with the knowledge of an evening spent enjoyably. As a matter of interest, the darts match went in our favour, winning by the odd game of three.

Any member wishing to come along on future occasions will they kindly let me have their names for my little list.

CHAS. J. WALKER.

### Fishermen

To the St. Dunstaners who are keen fishermen add the names of E. Kirkland, of Longton, near Preston, and R. Gadsby, of Leeds. The latter, who already has special permission to fish in the grounds of Harewood House, has now a permit to fish in a private lake about twenty miles outside Leeds.

In a recent letter he writes: "I have caught some grand trout. One weighed two pounds. That might not seem very big to you but it was the best I have ever caught and it put up a grand fight. I got so excited that I was shaking like a leaf when I got it to the landing net. I expect you will think all fishermen must be crazy. You might be right, only don't let Sir Ian hear you say it. He is an angler too, remember."

And E. Kirkland writes: "My policeman friend and I went fishing yesterday and we got several nice perch. What a thrill it must be to get a big salmon on your line. I caught a trout a little earlier on this season and I nearly fell in with excitement."

### Great-Grandfather

E. Arthur, of Old Ormesby, near Middlesbrough.

## Manchester Club Notes

Those readers of Club Notes will remember that our Club recently lost the services of Mrs. Dunphy as Secretary and this has compelled us to make some interim changes in the appointments for the remaining part of the year, 1956. Accordingly the following appointments have been made. The Vice-Chairman, Mr. Walter Bramley, becomes Chairman. Mr. Sam Russell becomes Vice-Chairman, and Mr. J. Shaw, Secretary.

Owing to the holiday period, will Club members please note that there will be only one meeting in August—on the 24th.

It is our pleasure once again to report a most enjoyable outing to our friends at the Railway Hotel, Pleasington, on the 29th June. We were very glad to have with us Miss Doel and Miss Everett. The latter is to succeed Miss Doel as Welfare Visitor when Miss Doel retires. An opportunity was taken to express our sincere thanks to Miss Doel for all the attention and kindness she has shown to us during her services with St. Dunstan's, and to wish her health and happiness in her retirement. Miss Everett was also welcomed into our Area with the hope that she would find we Lancastrians easy to attend upon and willing to co-operate with her in her welfare duties.

To close our most enjoyable function, Mr. Shaw thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hindle for the kind way in which we had been received and entertained. Thanks were also paid to the ladies who waited upon us at the sumptuous tea and to the members of the Darts team who gave us such good games and shared our liquid refreshments. To our colleague, Bob Britton, who was the originator of these grand functions, we owe a debt of gratitude and we were very happy to have him with us to endorse the general welcome extended to our party.

In the presence of the whole company, Sam Russell presented Mrs. Hindle with a lovely tray which he had made, to which was added a double-woven string bag. At 9.30 p.m. our coach took a very happy party back to Manchester.

J. SHAW.

### Placement

J. Whitcombe, as a telephonist with Messrs. W. R. Selwood, Ltd., Chandler's Ford, Hampshire.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Since reading Sir Ian's Chairman's Notes on amateur gardening for St. Dunstaners, I have been hopefully listening to "Home Grown," hoping to have some hints for the blind. Such hints as there have been have not been of much use to me, nor in fact should we expect much when they are not aware of our particular difficulties.

I am extremely interested in gardening for pleasure—God knows there is no profit in it!—and I believe that the best way we can help one another is to use your columns, if you will permit, in order to exchange hints. I have given up as hopeless trying to do anything in an herbaceous border, and not a great deal in a vegetable garden. One is so apt to pull up the wrong thing and leave a nice straight line of weeds.

I prefer big plants like gladioli and similar flowers, where I know where I am, but on the whole I prefer "pot culture." Here, with one plant in a pot, anything else must be a weed and out it comes. Probably the most satisfying flowers in pots are chrysanthemums, for with careful choice one can keep flowers going from the end of August until early January, and with a little tolerance on the part of one's wife one can keep the old roots out of the way of frost during the winter and so increase one's stock considerably in the spring.

Here, however, is the sort of hint I should like to have. I find it very difficult to know when I have stopped my chrysanthemums for the first and second times. I now stick a bit of cane or a matchstick in at the edge of the pot—one matchstick for one stop and two matchsticks for two. I am quite sure that there are many hints of this type available among us and I should be very grateful if you would allow the gardeners to use your columns for this purpose.

Yours sincerely, JOHN A. ORIEL.

[We shall be very glad indeed to do so. All questions, answers, or general gardening hints, should be sent in not later than the 6th of each month, and addressed to the Editor of the REVIEW at 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.]

DEAR EDITOR,

I think Tony Law's suggestion of publishing Amateur Radio call signs in the

REVIEW is an excellent one and should be pleased if you would include mine:

G3JYT

At present my activities are restricted to the 160 metre band as my transmitter only covers these frequencies, but I shall keep a special look-out for G3KNE and should be very pleased to contact over the air any other St. Dunstaner who uses this band.

Apropos Sir Ian's recent comments on hobbies, I think that Amateur Radio is a excellent one for blind people. One is constantly making new friends over the air, and these of course are not restricted to this country as the movement is world-wide. I obtained my transmitting licence about two years ago and have found this to be one of the most absorbing hobbies I know, especially having regard to the fact that lack of sight does not restrict one's activities. When I started, I contacted the local Radio Society of Great Britain and they put me in touch with a local radio club. The members of this were most helpful and I found the true "Ham spirit" very much in evidence. They assisted me in the construction and setting up of my first station and ironed out the small snags which inevitably occur at this stage. My present transmitter, however, was constructed by myself, unaided, and I am in the process of building a multi-band transmitter for long range working.

If any St. Dunstaner is interested, I suggest he gets in touch with the Radio Society of Great Britain with a view to joining a local radio club, and I am sure he will not regret it.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK JEANMONOD

London, S.E.11

G3JYT.

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to your request for observations on the heading, "Young St. Dunstaners," one reads the articles and news items in the REVIEW and accepts the headings without giving them much, if any, consideration. Since, however, the point has been raised, I am bound to say that I agree with Mr. Bennett's criticism that "Young St. Dunstaners" is a misnomer. St. Dunstaners are not born but made, subject to specific conditions, *i.e.* blindness as the result of service to the nation, so that a St. Dunstaner's children

cannot inherit his "title." Mr. Bennett's suggested alternative seems a good one but I offer, as an alternative, "Family News."

Yours sincerely,  
THOMAS FLOYD, *Teignmouth.*

DEAR EDITOR,  
Why not "Sons and Daughters?"

Yours sincerely,  
R. C. B. BUCKLEY, *London, S.W.*

DEAR EDITOR,  
I think that darts should be abolished where there are other people playing cards and dominoes in the same small room. I am referring to the tap rooms in pubs in Lancashire. Fancy a dart hitting a wire and bouncing off the board and landing in your neck! Awful!

Yours sincerely,  
JOE McDONALD, *Oldham.*

DEAR EDITOR,  
There are wireless and talking books, talking films, theatres, music-halls and concerts, the dear sisters put over play-readings and after one has blazed away down in the rifle range, it would seem the piano was a much over-worked instrument judging from the frequency with which I am told to speak louder because "it is like a pub at closing time." There seem to be, too, sweet melodies from the modern road with an occasional solo effort by a passing plane, then after old Joe has told me a good one and I have gone off into a guffaw, a gentleman, after having trodden on my toes, says, sternly, "Silence is golden." After thinking of those chaps clicking away, writing to the REVIEW about noises (with a nice little "ding" at the end of each line), I thought of the words said to have been written by the late Mr. Edison, who is credited with inventing the phonograph and telephone:  
*There's confusion in the ether,  
There are crashes in the street,  
There's the rattle of the milkman with his cart.  
There's the rasping of a trombone  
And the coalman on his beat  
All mingling with the organ-grinder's art.  
There's a ukulele twanging "Old Joe"—or is it  
"Jeff?"  
And that gramophone will grind till kingdom  
come,  
But I'm blissfully contented, friend—I happen to  
be deaf,  
It's just as if these other things were dumb.*

Best wishes,  
G. FALLOWFIELD, *Ovingdean.*

## From All Quarters

G. J. Smith, of Leicester, was invited by the Grenadier Guards O.C.A. to attend the review by the Queen at Windsor on June 23rd as a special guest. In spite of his age (he is 72), and the fact that he had ricked his back only a week previously, he thoroughly enjoyed his strenuous day. The *Leicester Mercury* had a story and a photograph of him (to his amusement, one taken ten years ago).

★ ★ ★  
C. V. J. Montgomery, of Slinfold, Horsham, entered sixty Light Sussex in an egg-laying contest organised by a well-known poultry food company and only missed a prize by two places. The competition is continuing and our St. Dunstan's officer intends to take part in it.

★ ★ ★  
C. J. Nichols, of Weybridge, has won first prize for the second year running in the Vickers Aircraft Social and Athletic Club Arts and Handicrafts Section. He entered a table lamp in the Wood Carving Class.

★ ★ ★  
Frank Hawes, of Swindon, Wiltshire, who is Chairman of the Swindon Branch of the International Friendship League, is shortly to visit Holland on a Friendship Tour with some of his members. He is tremendously interested in the movement, which does splendid work in promoting friendship between people of many lands.

★ ★ ★  
B. Temple, of Petts Wood, was physio-therapist this year to the women competitors at Wimbledon.

★ ★ ★  
James Miller, of Glasgow, had the honour of being introduced to Sir Edmund Hillary (conquerer of Everest) and Dr. Fuchs, when his place of work was visited recently by members of the Antarctic Expedition. They talked with him for ten minutes.

★ ★ ★  
J. Shonfield, of Reading, is busy working at a series of lectures on gunnery and armaments which he is to give at the request of the local branch of the Air Training Corps.

★ ★ ★  
Welcome visitors to Headquarters and 1 South Audley Street have been Jimmy and Mrs. Ellis, who are on a visit to this country from South Africa with their two lively little daughters.



R. M. Hamilton, of Oatley, New South Wales, Australia, went to Adelaide with Mrs. Hamilton for "Anzac Day," and marched with his old battalion. Mrs. Hamilton says, "... And did his old cobbers give him a wonderful hand! They took him out somewhere almost every day (no wives allowed!)."

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees is following up her demonstration of weaving at the Bon Marché with an exhibition in Birkenhead on July 22nd, but this will include as well demonstrations of other crafts by other physically handicapped people. The Exhibition, which will be opened by Lord Leverhulme, will go on for five days.

★ ★ ★

W. Scofield, of Alton, Hants, won second prize for a seagrass stool at the Exhibition of Handicrafts organised by the Hants Council of Social Service for the over 60's.

★ ★ ★

W. H. Hodder, of Hull, is making quite a name for himself in the world of Chess.

### Snake Drama

From the June, 1956, issue of *Reveille*, the magazine of the N.S.W. Branch of the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia:

"Blinded 2nd Lt. H. 'Digger' Jim Scrymgeour's home in Netherby, Warwick, was 'invaded' the other day. A 4ft. 9in. black snake entered through a bedroom window and bailed up Jim's wife.

Mrs. Scrymgeour was opening a drawer in her wardrobe when the snake emerged from between the wardrobe and the wall.

Her scream for help brought other members of her household rushing to the scene and sent the snake slithering back to its hiding place. They forced it out and killed it with sticks.

Jim, who believes the snake climbed a wisteria creeper to enter the window, was not at home at the time of the 'invasion' and successful counter-attack. He is a patient in Base Hospital, Warwick, following a scalding accident.

The accident prevented him attending the Royal Easter Show in Sydney, where his champion Poll Shorthorns again picked up a crop of prize ribbons."

Here's wishing you a quick recovery Jim, and our congratulations to Mrs. Jim on the successful outcome of what must have been a most unpleasant situation.

### Grandfathers

A. Taylor, of Wollescote; G. H. Heeley, of Leeds; J. A. Davies, of Meols; A. Hill, of Alresford; C. F. Spiers, of Oxford (a second grandchild); F. Westaway, of Yeovil, (the third); S. McLeod, of Cricklade; C. Firth, of Heswall, two more granddaughters making twelve grand-children; J. Mitchell, of Leith (twin grand-children); J. G. Rose, of North Berwick; H. Porter, of Kingston-on-Thames; H. Duxbury, of East Didsbury (Mary has had a son).

### Ragtails

*The raindrops hung, suspended globules from the tree.*

*Falling, they slapped the dead leaves encircled round its trunk.*

*As for the storm, it had gone; only its memory remained,*

*A confused memory of sound and lightning tearing through the swirling clouds.*

*How it had rained, so solid as to be frightening in its density.*

*The fallen scarecrow lay grotesque and flattened in the mud,*

*His cap half covered by the liquid earth.*

*I felt sorry for that scarecrow, so long had he stood proud,*

*Defiant in his ignorance, and now he seemed so much a man,*

*Weak and rather stupid in his weakness.*

*I walked away and left him there, I could not touch him, I was too afraid,*

*He lay so weak, and rather silly in his weakness. Yet even as I walked away I felt ashamed. Poor*

*Ragtails lay behind me*

*Silent, calling out for help.*

*At the gate I paused to view the place once more, Still he lay grotesque and flattened,*

*One straw arm outflung, the other crumpled by his side.*

*Suddenly I saw a figure run across the field,*

*It was a boy, his boots and shoes splattered with the clinging earth.*

*"Why is Ragtails lying down?" I did not answer straight away.*

*"The wind, my child," I said, "the wind."*

*He tugged me by the sleeve and led me down towards the corpse*

*And suddenly I was glad to go.*

*Together we picked him up and stood him in the ground,*

*His mussy clothes flopped heavy in the breeze.*

*Once he stood, proud, defiant in his ignorance, and I was glad.*

*Ignorance is strong against the wind.*

M. VINCENT ALDRIDGE.

## Frank Parker

Charlie Kelk, of Rottingdean, writes:

I heard from Frank Parker's sister last month that her brother had died suddenly after a heart attack. Frank had been selected to represent St. Dunstan's in the Chess Championship for the Blind at Blackpool next August, and he was looking forward to this event, in which he would, no doubt, have given a good account of himself.

Frank was a keen chess player and won our Cup in 1954, but last year played well below his best form. He was also very fond of music and literature and therefore was never at a loss when alone.

Earlier in the year we lost another good player and winner of last year's cup—Mr. Whitlam. The Chess Club will feel the loss of these two men, both as chess players and friends.

## Young St. Dunstaners

Leslie, son of Canon W. G. Speight, has secured his B.A. degree.

★ ★ ★

Jeannette, Miller, Glasgow, is junior sports champion of her school and has been awarded a silver shield. She has also taken two life-saving courses at the local baths and has passed with full marks. Our St. Dunstaner has been advised to allow her to enter a physical training school.

★ ★ ★

Gordon Parker, Grantham, also excels at sport. His school team (of which he is a member) retained the Sports Shield and in the photographs Gordon held the coveted trophy. In Cub Sports two days later, he gained two firsts and a second so, says our St. Dunstaner, "we may have another Gordon Pirie in the making."

★ ★ ★

Margaret Rayton, Leeds (her father is dead) has won a scholarship to the local Grammar School. She also is a swimmer and has won two certificates.

★ ★ ★

Sheila Read, New Haw, Surrey, who is eight, has passed the Primary Grade Royal Academy of Dancing (Ballet in education) certificate.

★ ★ ★

As in past years, no REVIEW will be published for the month of August.

## Births

BOOTH.—On June 15th, to the wife of Peter Booth, of Addlestone, Surrey, a daughter—Pauline.

COLLINWOOD.—On June 17th, to the wife of F. Collinwood, of Lee, Staffs., a son—Neil.

DAVIES.—On June 27th, to the wife of L. Davies, of Purley, a daughter—Elizabeth.

FISHER.—On June 23rd, to the wife of C. E. Fisher, of Ower, near Romsey, Hants, a son—Michael Stephen.

## Marriages

IBBOTSON—LAMB.—On May 30th, H. Ibbotson, recently of West House, to Mrs. Lamb, of Hull.

RAWDING—BLAKE.—On July 21st, at Brigh-ton, W. C. Rawding, of Scarborough, (at present in training), to Mrs. Blake.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

BOSWELL.—To Mr. and Mrs. E. Boswell, of Gainsborough, Lincs., whose younger son, Terence, died on Saturday, June 23rd, after much suffering. He would have been nineteen in July.

BROOKE.—To J. L. Brooke, of Winton, Bournemouth, whose younger brother has died in Oldham.

FEARN.—To Mr. and Mrs. E. Fearn, of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, whose 25-year-old son, Peter, died on June 27th as the result of an accident while at work. He was working inside a partially-completed house when he was struck by a falling support.

FLYNN.—To E. E. Flynn, of Merstham, whose brother died suddenly at Christmas. He had cycled home from work and died within an hour. This is our St. Dunstaner's third bereavement in the last three years. Another brother died on the day of his retirement and his sister died unexpectedly a short time afterwards.

MORTIMER.—To H. Mortimer, of Wendover, near Aylesbury, whose brother has recently died.

RUSSELL.—To Norman Russell, of Leicester, whose mother died on June 14th at the age of 84. She was cremated at Croydon.



## “ In Memory ”

### Private William Buckham, *Northumberland Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of W. Buckham, of Birtley, County Durham, who died in hospital on July 10th.

Serving from November, 1914, until December, 1917, he did not, however, come to us until as recently as 1952 when he was already a very sick man and unable to undertake any training.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife, who is herself ill, and to his family.

### Private George E. Gale, *Derset Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of G. E. Gale, of Begbroke, Oxfordshire. He was 78.

Discharged from the Army in 1916, he came to us in 1928 when he trained first as a poultry farmer and later in rug and mat-making. He was forced to give up work, however, some years ago owing to his age and his poor health.

He leaves a widow to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

### A.C.1 Thomas James Horne, *Royal Air Force*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of a St. Dunstaner of the last war, T. J. Horne, of Brighton. He was 49.

He left the Royal Air Force in October, 1946 and had been admitted to St. Dunstan's a few months earlier. He trained as a shop-keeper and he carried on with his business until 1955, when ill-health forced him to retire. He had, however, recently bought another business and moved into it only last April.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and grown-up family.

### Lance Corporal H. D. Learmonth, M.M., *1st Northumberland Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of H. D. Learmonth, of Lesbury, Alnwick.

He served with his regiment from September 7th, 1914, to July, 1917, and was awarded the Military Medal. He was wounded at Arras in 1917 and when he came to St. Dunstan's was trained as a telephonist. In December, 1921, having regained useful sight, he was able to be taken off our books but in February of this year he was admitted again to full benefits. He was then, however, very seriously ill in hospital and he died there on July 1st.

He leaves a widow and one child to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

### A. R. ("Reg.") Mallory, M.M., *Canadian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Reg. Mallory, of Ottawa, Canada. He passed away very suddenly on his way home from work on May 11th, the eve of his 58th birthday.

After being wounded at St. Pierre, he was at St. Dunstan's from 1918-1919 where he met his future wife. He returned to Canada and then came back to this country in 1927. Since his second return home to Canada, he had managed a dry canteen. He led a very full life and enjoyed every minute of it. He loved fishing and travelling, he was a very keen "ham" (amateur broadcaster) and most active in everything to do with the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War-Blinded. He was always a regular attendee at the annual meetings and many social functions held throughout the year. He was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1953. (He represented the Sir Arthur Pearson Association at the Coronation ceremonies in Ottawa.)

He leaves a wife and children, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

### P. Marler, *Australian Forces*

We record with deep regret the death of P. Marler, of Queensland, Australia, which occurred on April 4th, in Toowoomba General Hospital. He did not come to St. Dunstan's and his death has been notified to us by his daughter, Mrs. T. Fishbourne, to whom our very deep sympathy is extended.

### Sergeant Frank Ellis Parker, *97th Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. E. Parker, of Luton. He was 65.

He was wounded in November, 1916, and came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained as a masseur and lived in Scotland for a few years, and he was also a Braille Reader in the Library for a long time. At one time he did a little basket work and netting but gave this up in 1942. Braille reading and chess were always his real delight and interest and he was looking forward to the chess competition at Blackpool in August at the time of his sudden death. He was cremated at Enfield, as his wife was only a year ago.

Since the death of his wife he had lived with Mrs. Boston, his sister, and our deep sympathy goes out to her and to her two sisters.

### Private William John Wakefield, *9th North Staffordshire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of W. J. Wakefield, of Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent.

He served from December, 1915, until November 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in 1920. He had never been able to do any heavy work but his little shop gave him a real interest and much pleasure as a hobby. He also did a little netting.

He had been ill for a long time and his death took place on June 21st.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Wakefield.

We regret that we had not been informed that our late St. Dunstaner, R. J. Radcliffe, of Canada, whose death was reported in May, had married and had a young daughter. To Mrs. Radcliffe and her child our deep sympathy is sent.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

EDWIN ("Bob") Read is a St. Dunstaner who is nearly 57; he lives at Brighton. The Commandant tells me that although Bob is totally blind, he walks practically all over Brighton by himself. Bob says that bicycles on the pavement or leaning up against the wall are the obstacles he hates most. But in spite of the bicycles and other hazards, he can go from his digs to the local, to the Post Office, to St. Dunstan's at West House, or to see his friends by himself without any trouble.

Bob hears and feels his way about and the direct noises made by vehicles and pedestrians, together with the echoes from the walls of the buildings and the change of sound when he reaches the end of the street, tell him where he is.

All this is familiar enough to St. Dunstaners who walk alone, and even I, who lead a rather sedentary life, recognise that what Bob says is authentic.

I suppose the two really serious handicaps imposed by blindness are the difficulty of reading and the difficulty of getting about alone. You can substitute reading with the eyes by reading Braille with the fingers, and the Talking Book with the ears, but without a sighted person's help we must go without the daily newspapers and the magazines although, of course, the wireless fills in many gaps. Perhaps we can never walk freely wherever we like, but those who persist can traverse many familiar routes and it makes an enormous difference to one's sense of independence to be able to get out alone and go to a few places within easy striking distance of one's home or lodging.

Some think a sixth sense guides us; I do not think this is true unless we call the sense of obstacle a sixth sense, but this is really a combination of feeling and touch through the feet and the walking stick and of hearing and pressure, and all these are familiar senses, though no doubt we have developed their use more than others.

As I get older and busier, I find the temptation to sit down and wait for somebody to show me the way is very great, but I try to resist it, for once you lose mobility you lose one of the most precious contributions to independence.

At the one extreme are some remarkable St. Dunstaners of whom I call to mind Tommy Milligan, who walks all over London by himself, and Walter Thornton, who even in his earliest months of blindness walked all over Church Stretton—and many others. The other extreme is the fellow who dare not move from his chair. If we cannot emulate the most proficient, let us at least determine not to be immobilised and chair-ridden.

IAN FRASER.



## Welfare Staff Changes

Miss E. Graham Doel retires from St. Dunstan's service this month after having spent ten years as our Welfare Visitor for Lancashire. On Saturday, September 1st, at the Liverpool Club, in the presence of some fifty St. Dunstaners, Mrs. Violet Formstone presented her with a portable radio set as a token of their gratitude for her devoted service. Miss Doel has elected to spend the balance of the Presentation Fund towards a greenhouse for her new home, which is to be a cottage in the Lake District.

★ ★ ★  
Miss Auriel M. Smith, who has been responsible for visiting St. Dunstaners in Lincolnshire and the South and East Ridings of Yorkshire since 1942, retired at the end of August, and St. Dunstaners in her area have expressed to her their deep appreciation of her services in the form of a cheque with which she will purchase something of daily use to her in the cottage she is preparing for her retirement, also in the Lake District.

Both Miss Doel and Miss Smith have established themselves very firmly in the hearts of our St. Dunstaners, and we sincerely appreciate the contribution which they have made towards the success of our Welfare Visiting during their years of service. We wish them many happy years in their retirement.

★ ★ ★  
Miss Doel has been succeeded by Miss P. W. Everett, whom she has already introduced to many St. Dunstaners in the area. Miss Everett comes to us from the Kent County Constabulary, which she joined in 1946, and in which she had considerable experience in welfare work.

Miss Ann Newall has been appointed to take over the Wales and Border Counties area. Miss Newall undertook experience of welfare work during her service with the Red Cross, both at home and abroad, and also at the East Grinstead Plastic Surgery Hospital, where she knew several St. Dunstaners and developed a keen interest in our work.

## Holiday Accommodation

St. Dunstaners and their wives welcomed as paying guests. Three minutes' walk from 'bus stop. Ten minutes to Ovingdean. —For terms apply Mrs. Cropley, 7 Ridgewood Avenue, Saltdean, near Brighton, Sussex.

## From All Quarters

Johnny Swann, of Cosby, who is one of our handless St. Dunstaners, received a prize of a handsome lamp recently when his Domino team, Balby, won the championship again for the second year running.

★ ★ ★  
E. Denny's grandson has been appointed Lecturer in English at Cape Town University.

★ ★ ★  
W. Bell, of Newcastle, won fourth prize with his leeks, beating some twenty other competitors—all experts.

★ ★ ★  
On August 22nd—Mrs. West's birthday—our St. Dunstaners E. A. West, of Lyderstone, King's Lynn, and Mrs. West were thrilled to speak to their son, Donovan, from Wellington, in New Zealand. It was five years since they had heard his voice.

★ ★ ★  
When the Duke of Edinburgh visited Devizes as Colonel-in-Chief of the Wiltshire Regiment, he did not forget retired members. He visited the regimental cottages, and among the veterans he spoke to in their homes was Harry Hill.

★ ★ ★  
G. Eustace, of Kingston, is Chairman of the local Blind Club, and recently its members went on a tour of London Airport. Mr. and Mrs. Eustace thoroughly recommend the idea to any other readers who may be interested.

★ ★ ★  
Walter Thornton, who plays an active part as one of the two joint secretaries of the Bourneville Youth Club, went to France with some of the boys recently. He decided "just for fun" to enter for the French National Life Saving Award. He passed, and as a result of his example, twelve of his boys decided that they would try, too.

★ ★ ★  
C. Roach, of Darlington, had a wonderful show of roses again this year and took more prizes at the local Shows.

★ ★ ★  
P. R. Duffee, of Greenford, has passed the Home Teachers' examination with honours in three subjects, including braille.

## Placements

F. H. Greenaway, on inspection work with the Automatic Light Controlling Company, Ltd., Bournemouth; R. Newton, as a capstan lathe operator, with Measurements, Ltd., of Delph, near Oldham.

## London Club Notes

### Bridge

The St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will take place at Ovingdean during the week-end beginning Friday, November 16th. Will all bridge players who are interested and wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup competitions—namely, for Pairs and Teams of Four—send in their names to Mr. Bob Willis at the London Club on or before November 1st, at the same time giving the name of the partner they have arranged to play with. This will enable the Committee to make the draw and ensure the smooth running of the competitions at Brighton.

JOCK BROWN.

## Belgium and France Re-visited

I was one of the party Sergeant Nichols took to Belgium and France, and what a trail of triumph it was, to be sure. We were given a tremendous welcome wherever we went and everybody asking us to go again. We were given a civic reception at Courtrai and met with a great welcome at Mons, where two wreaths were laid. Other wreaths were laid at Casteau and on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Brussels. We visited the Menin Gate and made a flying visit to Ostend before making for Paris, where we visited S.H.A.P.E. Later that day our Mons men marched down the Champs Elysées for the Kindling of the Flame at the Arc de Triomphe. We visited the British Embassy and met General Lambert, but what a big surprise for me when I found members here able to do the manual alphabet and sit down for a chat with me! We visited the Palais de Fontainebleau and by the time we had made all our calls had covered practically all Paris. Our last evening was spent at the British Legion in Paris.

The whole trip was wonderfully planned, with splendid accommodation. We remained seated in the coach and were driven on to the boat, took our seats, and were driven off with no trouble at the Customs, and enjoyed a perfect crossing both going and returning.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

## "23 Paces to Baker Street"

This is a film which is right up the St. Dunstan's street in more senses than one. The hero is a blind playwright-detective and even has a flat in Portland Place! The film was very well received by the critics when it had its London première recently.

## St. Dunstan's Physiotherapists at New York Conference

The Second International Physical Therapy Conference was held in New York from the 18th to 23rd June, 1956, and was attended by physiotherapists Mr. J. D. Calder, of Coventry, and Mr. H. J. Davis, of Stratford-on-Avon, and Mr. R. Priestley, Physiotherapy Superintendent, representing St. Dunstan's. The visit was arranged at the invitation of the American Foundation for the Blind, which has liaison with the Blind Veterans' Association, the Foundation acting as hosts to St. Dunstan's representatives.

This Conference, attended by physiotherapists from 36 countries, gave an opportunity to present the activities of St. Dunstan's in the field of physiotherapy and to demonstrate how successfully this work is being carried out by war-blinded men and women. The occasion also provided an opportunity whereby assistance could be given to the American Foundation for the Blind to re-open training in the profession of physical therapy for blind people, which had been suspended in 1949. St. Dunstan's representatives contributed much in discussion and demonstration at the various meetings to break down resistance to the training of blind people in this field, resulting in the promise of the fullest co-operation by those who, in the past, had not done so.

Plans are now being made by the American Foundation for the Blind to initiate a pilot scheme of training for physical therapy for blind people in America, with the ultimate aim of a long term training scheme being developed in the various States.

R. PRIESTLEY,

*Physiotherapy Superintendent*

## 150 Years Old

Congratulations to our friends and printers, the *Brighton and Hove Herald*, which on September 6th celebrated its 150th anniversary. The *Herald*—one of the oldest newspapers in the country, and Brighton's first newspaper—has at its head our St. Dunstaner, W. T. Curtis-Willson, M.B.E., J.P. Many St. Dunstaners will have heard Mr. Curtis-Willson when he took part in a fifteen minute broadcast entitled "Local Paper," in honour of the occasion.

Her Majesty the Queen sent a message of congratulation upon the paper's 150 years of continuous publication.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to support the views in previous letters criticising the use in the REVIEW of the term "Young St. Dunstaners." To refer to the children of St. Dunstaners in this way is surely rather a silly misnomer.

Among the men and women who belong to St. Dunstan's there are the old, middle-aged and the young. But the last should not be confused with the children.

Previous correspondents have made practical alternative suggestions as to the manner in which the children of St. Dunstaners should be referred to, and I would endorse one or other of these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. ROSTON, *Iver*.

[Other readers have written to the same effect. From now on, therefore, items concerning St. Dunstaners' children will appear under the heading "Family News," as suggested by Mr. Floyd, of Teignmouth.—ED.]

DEAR EDITOR,

Many Roman Catholic St. Dunstaners will recall the kindness of the nuns and Parish Priest at Rottingdean in always holding their Chapel at our disposal.

For the past ten years two and sometimes three pews in the front of the Chapel have been kept in reserve for trainees and holiday makers at Ovingdean.

A new church is nearing completion—it is hoped that it may be opened on the 8th December—and funds are now being sought for its furnishings. Many who have attended the Chapel will no doubt wish to subscribe to the fund, and I am wondering if you would be good enough to receive donations, which would in due course be handed to the Parish Priest at Rottingdean.

Yours sincerely,

T. GAIGER, *Devizes, Wilts.*

[Yes. I will be happy to do this, and St. Dunstaners should send their donations to the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1.—ED.]

DEAR EDITOR,

If you would allow me space I would like to thank the members of St. Dunstan's who came to the old inter-war camps at Little Gaddesden, for their delightful and generous gift of a door mat. The presentation at Lee-on-Solent took me so much by surprise

that I feel I did not thank them adequately. I shall indeed feel proud whenever I cross my doorstep to remember my friends of the old pre-war camps. I feel sure that no one could find a more splendid and courageous and gay lot of friends of 30 years' standing.

Also just one word as to my old Austin 7. It has worked well for 22 years and still can carry myself and three St. Dunstaners, probably weighing a total of over 55 stone—three St. Dunstaners at 15 stone each and myself the rest. It never broke down once at the Lee Camp after 90 miles in and around the camp.

Once again, many, many thanks for the mat.

Yours sincerely,

BRIDGET E. TALBOT.

## Liverpool Club Notes

Saturday, September 1st, was a very notable occasion at the Club for a large company of St. Dunstaners gathered to take part in a very pleasing ceremony, namely, a presentation to Miss Doel from the St. Dunstaners she had visited for so many years.

Speeches were made by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman (Mr. Owen) and Mr. Collier, a member of the Manchester Club, all of whom assured Miss Doel of the esteem and gratitude we all feel for her and the work she has done for us in the past ten years, and the regret we feel at losing her services.

The presentation was then made of a portable wireless set, with a silver plate attached to it, on which were inscribed the following words: "Presented to Miss E. Graham Doel, by her St. Dunstaner friends, as a token of their gratitude for the ten years devoted to their welfare, and with their good wishes for her happiness in retirement, 1st September, 1956."

Our St. Dunstaner, Mrs. Violet Formstone, with a charming little speech, handed the set to Miss Doel.

Miss Doel then replied and said how much she had been touched by the nice things that had been said about her, and assured us she would carry with her very happy memories of the time spent among the St. Dunstaners she had tried to serve.

Refreshments were then served and afterwards a dominoe tournament with suitable prizes was held to conclude a very enjoyable afternoon.

JOSEPH BLAKELY,

*Chairman.*

## War Pensions

### Sir Ian's Plea in the House

In the House of Commons on July 31st, on the Motion for the Adjournment, Sir Ian Fraser, Morecambe and Lonsdale, said that he wanted to put on record some of the views of the British Legion and of ex-servicemen generally with regard to war pensions, so that they might receive proper consideration during the Parliamentary recess. The British Legion Conference had decided to adhere to its long-standing policy in asking that the basic rate of war pensioners should be raised from the present figure of 67s. 6d. to 90s., he said.

That would be an all-round rough justice and there was a great deal to be said for that proposal. It took no account of means or employability, did the same for all proportionately to the extent of their disability, and was in line with a long tradition of war pensions policy. It encouraged work and did not, as did some other methods of compensating people for disability, encourage idleness.

Sir Ian said that the conference had also asked for an increase in the special allowances and he added an individual plea of his own, that men suffering from two or three disabilities should be specially cared for. The Conference showed plainly that it felt its case had not been properly listened to or dealt with by any Government since the end of the war. "That is not surprising," said Sir Ian, "because pensioners are in a lower place on what I may call the cost of living ladder than they should be. Salaries, wages and income generally have risen by a large amount, but the war pension has not risen by a similar amount, at least for the overwhelming majority of war pensioners." The request for 90s. was not outrageous or unreasonable. It was something less than the assessment put upon disabilities by courts of law when dealing with negligence, and although the circumstances were different, the disabilities are the same. War pensioners were dying each year at something like 16,000 or 20,000, and before they were all gone, proper recompense should be given to them.

The Legion would try to rally ex-service societies generally to join in a united front to bring such proper and reasonable powers of persuasion to bear upon Members of Parliament and upon public opinion as will create the proper climate in which this

claim may be met, if not in 1957 then at least in 1958.

In his reply, Mr. R. Wood, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, said: "The case for the 90s. rate on the basis of the rise in the cost of living has been put very fairly by Sir Ian, who is always zealous, eloquent and persuasive when he speaks as the champion of ex-servicemen and their dependents. No one can possibly deny that since the last war successive governments have completely transformed the situation for the most needy of all and the increase of 12s. 6d. last year was the biggest single increase that has been made in the history of war pensions. I feel that no Government can possibly be complacent about what my hon. Friend has said and in face of the British Legion's claim for 90s. That claim deserves and has received and will continue to receive the Government's constant consideration."

Referring to supplementary allowances, Mr. Wood said that the man with several disabilities was already receiving quite a respectable sum of money, but he would undertake, and the Minister would undertake, to study very carefully the suggestions Sir Ian had made, because they were both immensely sympathetic to the possibility of improving still further the position of the most needy pensioners of all. Concluding, Mr. Wood said: "I repeat that I am immensely glad to have had this discussion. I hope sincerely that what I have been able to say, and, far more, the way in which the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance try to administer the duties laid upon us, will leave my hon. Friend in no doubt as to our sympathy and desire to do all we can, both for the war pensioners and their dependants."

### Great-Grandfathers

G. Worgan, of Woolaston, near Lydney;  
S. McLeod, Cricklade.

### Grandfathers

T. Brougham, of Speke, Liverpool (at forty-six), E. Williams, of Shipley; J. B. Campbell, of Houghton-le-Spring; W. Millward, of Woburn Green; W. Watson, How Mill, near Carlisle; H. Bray, of Wythenshaw.

And new grandchildren for E. Watts, of Birkenhead; C. H. Stock, of Southampton; A. Briggs, of Thorpe, near Norwich; C. Durkin, of Tunbridge Wells; S. McLeod, of Cricklade.



## A Passage from India in 1897

As the Suez Canal is very much in the news at the moment, I thought it might interest readers to hear about a voyage I made through the Canal as a small boy of seven. Although so long ago, the events of the voyage, including the passage through the Canal, remain very vivid in my memory. I have passed through the Canal many times in the last 60 years, but that first voyage I will never forget.

We sailed from Bombay on the good ship *Tokio*—she was a cargo boat, but carried a few passengers. There was no electric light on board and no refrigeration or cold storage of any kind, so the meat and poultry for the voyage, which lasted six weeks, had to be carried alive—sheep, chickens and a bullock were quartered on the well deck. On account of a lack of fresh vegetables, the crew were issued each morning with a ration of lime juice to protect them against scurvy.

Being the only small boy on board, I was allowed the run of the ship, and one afternoon I was standing in the foc'sle with the sailor on watch. A ship appeared on the horizon. As she came nearer I said to my friend "That's one of our ships." "No, it isn't," he replied, but I persisted. He got angry and told me to "buzz off," so I did. I ran up to the Bridge and called to the Captain in my piping voice "Captain Jones, Captain Jones, one of our ships is coming." The skipper called down to the "watch" "Is that one of our ships?" The "watch" said "No, sir." But it was, and there was a great hullabaloo as the Union Jack had to be fetched out of the locker, and a seaman had to hurry to the poop to be ready to hoist and "dip" the flag in courtesy as the two vessels passed each other. I have always had a great love for ships, and I knew the "lines" of the large companies' ships as a small boy to-day knows the "lines" of different makes of cars.

A few days after the above incident we arrived at Suez and entered the Canal. It was a very different Canal through which the great ships pass to-day. There were no great concrete banks as there are to-day, only sufficient width for a ship of not over 8,000 tons to navigate. The banks were of sand and it was quite easy to throw a biscuit to the little Arab boys who would run along the banks calling for "bak-sheesh."

At night huge searchlights are fitted to

the bows and it is a wonderful sight to see these lights many miles away. The passage through the Canal in those early days took about 36 hours, as vessels could only move very slowly to avoid the backwash shifting the sand on the banks.

Further, as there was only room for one ship to go through at a time, others going in the opposite direction had to tie up at specially appointed places. For a small boy there was plenty to interest him—small villages, donkeys, camels, etc., etc. A small boy's dream! Finally we arrived at Port Said—that "sink of iniquity" is very much the same as it was in those days, but quite respectable now. The little boats still come out to the ships, selling their wares—Turkish delight, nougat, handbags, etc. Then there was that character, the "Gully Gully" man, who performed marvellous tricks on the deck with day-old chicks.

We sailed from Port Said to the strains of "Funiculi Funicula," played from a small boat by a party of Italian men and women instrumentalists.

I remember very little more of the rest of the voyage, except that it was rough in the Bay of Biscay, and the end of the voyage when we berthed at Tidal Basin, London.

D. F. C. McALPIN.

## Forty-four Years Married

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Johnson, of Eccleston, St. Helen's, on July 6th.

## Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. McLoughlin, of Dublin, August 1st; Mr. and Mrs. A. Keegan, of Cork, August 26th; Mr. and Mrs. A. Briggs, of Thorpe, near Norwich, September 2nd.

We have only just heard that Mr. and Mrs. J. Lomas, of Walthamstow, celebrated their ruby wedding in June of last year.

## Silver Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. T. Millward, of Brighton, on August 15th; Mr. and Mrs. F. Watkinson, late of Beverley, and now of South Africa, August 29th; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Edmonds, of Grantham, August 15th.

★ ★ ★

We congratulate all these St. Dunstaners and their wives on their anniversaries.

## From the Chairman's Post-bag

Writing from Ovingdean, George Mortimer, in a letter to Sir Ian, says:—

"Your words in the July REVIEW have raised a number of very interesting points worthy of great discussion.

I know that blindness would be unbearable if it were not for the fact that we are able to forget that we are blind. We who have lost our sight have been given the power to form complete and satisfactory mental pictures before us. These mental pictures may not conform in every detail with the true visual picture which we would see if we were sighted, but such pictures grow and grow and become really real.

I dream fairly often and in my dreams I see real solid people, both those who I met before I was blinded and also those that I have "mentally seen" since I was blinded.

Before closing may I tell you about something which gave me a shock a few weeks ago. I happened to come into a room just after 2 o'clock one Sunday afternoon and heard your voice very clearly and very distinctly, so much so that I greeted you. As it proved, a little loudspeaker was switched on and you were giving a talk on the "Home Grown" programme. All this is a credit to the wireless installation at Ovingdean, also to the very fine reception produced by V.H.F. This method of broadcasting is able to maintain the true character of the voice, so much so that it becomes, shall we say, too realistic?"

★ ★ ★

C. J. R. Fawcett, of Bournemouth, writes:

"My dreams are not at all regular nor are they frequent; many of them are not worth recalling and many a time I am aware of having dreamt but am unable to bring it to mind. Those I do recapture, however, have at least one feature in common—the visual sense has been stimulated every time. I believe it is possible for any of our senses to be involved, and it is probably for that reason that all one's emotions could conceivably come into action.

In my experience I seldom remember sounds such as conversation or music, although they do occasionally linger and can be recaptured. The point I am trying to make is that pictures are more readily and firmly established in the memory than any conversation or other sound. I dreamt a month ago of being introduced to two or

the Australian cricketers—Lindwall and Johnson; the former was a man of short stature with a face that was full of character but rather forlorn; and Johnson a much taller man who, to my great surprise, was wearing an overcoat that was much too long for him, leaving me with the impression of an undertaker rather than a cricketer. I have seen no new faces since 1918, and I don't suppose the faces I saw in my dreams are anything like the real thing; one could follow up this line of thought and wonder how those particular faces came into my mind at all; were they concocted specially for the occasion, or were they faces I had seen in *Comic Cuts* or the *News of the World* before 1918? I can't say.

Another dream I had only last night was of a beetle running across the floor of my room with the speed and almost the silence of a mouse. I joined in the search for it after it had disappeared behind some furniture, but the furniture had about as little relation to the truth as the size of the beetle, but the point is that I could see all those details in my dream, including the colours of the creature, carpet and furniture.

Have you ever wondered what the dreams are like of a person who was born blind? I never cease to wonder about it, and likewise never cease to be thankful that my nineteen years of being able to see has greatly enriched the rest of my life—even my unconscious hours."

## Spinners' Cottages

The Weavers' Guild, of which I am a founder member, is seeking to record the whereabouts of old time spinners' and weavers' cottages, especially those with a frame for spinning purposes. Many St. Dunstaners and their friends in their travels may have come across or heard of such places, and I would gladly welcome authentic data. I came across many such places in Somerset, Norfolk, Suffolk, etc., during the war but memory eludes the precise details.

MAUREEN LEES.

The Coach House,  
52 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

## Exhibition

The date of Maureen's exhibition of work done by the physically handicapped was wrongly given in the last REVIEW as July. It actually opens on October 22nd, and will go on until Friday, the 26th. It is at 94 Argyll Street, Birkenhead.



## Lee-on-Solent, 1956

The Annual Camp at the Royal Naval Air Station, Lee-on-Solent, was again an outstanding success, and we all hasten to express our gratitude to the Commander and the Ship's Company for providing us with yet another memorable week in our lives. Despite depressions from Suez and the Atlantic, the general opinion is that it was the "best ever."

Though space is restricted, special mention must be made of the Field Gun Crew who, fresh from their victory at Earl's Court, were once again our close friends and helpers. They certainly are a fine bunch of chaps.

The gay round went off to a good start with a dance at the Eagle Canteen, where we fell easy victims to the delightful Highland dancing of a cute little Wren. We were guests of the British Legion Club in Gosport, where it was shown once more that St. Dunstan's was in the forefront of entertainment by the talent produced from within the campers. There were tea parties at the Wren Officers' Messes and wonderful trips over the Solent to Cowes, on the Isle of Wight. It was on one of these trips that our tame policeman-piper was taken for a blind man again. With cheeks puffed out and eyes half closed in ecstasy, he led us along the gangway to the boat for the return journey. A couple of dogs started to bark and howl, but resolutely Jock went on until he saw the Pier Master bearing down on him with wild gesticulations and hoarse shouts. It seemed to our haggis basher that here was a definitely unappreciative audience about to show his feelings physically. He put out an arm to defend himself. "No, no," the agitated official took his arm to lead him. "Mind that rope, you'll fall over it."

An enjoyable drive to H.M.S. Dryad, General Eisenhower's H.Q., was a sort of mystery tour. We still wonder where the teetotallers' bus went to, for it returned home an hour after the "pubby" one. Happy memories of two excellent dances held at the R.A.F. Station, Titchfield, will remain with us for another year.

The annual walking race was held as usual. Amid scenes of great enthusiasm that wonderful youngster of seventy-three was victorious for the second time in two years. Alec Craigie took first place this year again. He certainly keeps the colours of the old boys flying from the top of the mast.

On Friday morning, August 24th, two buses left for Ovingdean and London, and the only consoling thought was that we were one week nearer next year's camp.

To the R.N.A.S., Lee-on-Solent, we reiterate our sincere and grateful thanks for another wonderful week, and we hope that the Padre's hat will produce our names so that we may see you all next year.

STEWART SPENCE.

## "In Ardua, Flora"

By the time this appears in print, should it do so, I shall have removed from the place of which I speak to plough a new furrow in virgin soil in a fold of the Sussex Downs. There is an old saying that one cannot have pleasure without pain, and even now the truth of this is impelled upon me.

My life has been spent in its majority within five and a half miles of London Bridge; my earlier days from birth until my late 'teens in business premises with but stone walks and brick walls, with one small yard about seven feet by six. Here in my boyhood I helped to rear ferns, geraniums and fuschia, with occasional cactii and bulbs. It was amazing that in this small area, surrounded by walls over ten feet high, there grew and flourished greenery and blossom to brighten one's view.

Pre-1939 I had a garden of my own, devoted to many types of flowers, and a plot of land; half of the space allocated, I am afraid, to many head of chicken. But the hours spent therein were hours of pleasure.

Since 1945 I have had a garden. I have derived pleasure from it and bragged how little work I did in it. My wife has the green fingers.

I give some idea of it to maybe help or suggest ideas to some other St. Dunstaner, who likes a garden but does not like work.

It measures roughly 25ft. by 45ft., and is a walled plot. On the south wall I have four wall-trained fruiting trees, cherry, plum, peach and pear. These trees stand in a wide bed of soil in which grow golden rod, delphinium, lilies, phlox and stocks. I have also gooseberry bushes, apple trees, flowering shrubs; the walls of the house hold clematis, wisteria, honeysuckle and jasmine. Below them grow the sweet scented plants. Interspersed among all the others are the flowers I call the "common herd"—marigolds, larkspur, antirrhinum, asters. These, and roses, surround the lawn.

Well, it is more than ten years since we started this oasis, but it has not been a hard garden.

I have one piece of advice to all St. Dunstaners. A garden is not an unemptying pocket. You cannot take all the time. Every year give the soil a good meal of compost, manure or hop manure, and then during the season a little general fertiliser. It will work wonders.

One other tip. If you need a hose use the new plastic type. It does not kink, crack or split and is light and very pliable.

If you read these lines think of me now, trying to think out and fit in my new soil. I am taking a number of cuttings from my London oasis to remind me of this place.

JOHN MUDGE.

### To St. Dunstaners and their Families in the Lancashire Area

May I take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation and thanks, particularly to those friends unable to be at the wonderful Presentation at the Liverpool Club on September 1st, for your most generous gifts of a greenhouse and wireless set on the occasion of my retirement.

I leave you with happy and affectionate memories and wish you all, as well as my successor, the best of luck. GRAHAM DOEL.

### Quite Clear

Without comment, the magazine "Civil Service Opinion" prints this extract from the Pensioners' Guide to the Pension (Increase) Acts: "In addition it was laid down that if the total of pension and increase was less than it would have been if the pension had been smaller, it could be increased to the larger amount."

★ ★ ★

In a letter to Headquarters, Francis E. Hawes, of Swindon, writes:—

"During my stay in Amsterdam I chanced upon a Dutch official who works for the Dutch War-Blind. His name eludes me for the moment, but he spends a good deal of time in the Wardens' Bungalow at the camping terrain which forms part of the Olympic Stadium. He is himself a war pensioner, having served on detachment with the British Navy during the war. He is not blind. He showed me much kindness and I suggest that should other St. Dunstaners be camping or cycling in Holland and happen to stay in Amsterdam, they introduce themselves to him."

### Reunions

As we go to press, only the London Reunion remains to complete the successful series of 1956 meetings.

The Glasgow Reunion on July 10th was one of the smallest gatherings, but nevertheless only three St. Dunstaners of those invited were unable to be present. Mr. D. G. Hopewell, Member of St. Dunstan's Council, presided and the Deputy Chief Constable of Glasgow came along after lunch and was a most popular guest, as the constant laughter during his speech showed.

Mr. Hopewell presided again at Newcastle on July 12th and this was also a very good meeting, as was Harrogate two days later, in spite of rain which did not stop all day.

Brighton, naturally, was the biggest of all these Reunions, more than one hundred St. Dunstaners attending. In Sir Ian's absence abroad, Mr. Hopewell again presided at this very happy gathering. Here, as at all of the Reunions, a message of good wishes was sent from Sir Ian and Lady Fraser.

### National Laying Test, 1955-56 Report for the 11th Period of Four Weeks 17th July to 13th August, 1956

	<i>Score</i>	<i>Value</i>
1. Philip Bagwell ...	...	1060
2. George Cooke ...	...	1027
3. W. Webb ...	...	1005
4. Percy Holmes ...	...	892
5. John Dix ...	...	774
6. W. A. Smith ...	...	734
Average No. of eggs per bird per month, 12.39.		
Average No. of eggs per bird to date, 163.53.		

### Marriages

LLOYD.—On August 31st, R. R. Lloyd, of Bournemouth, to Miss Kathleen Crocker.

NESBITT—JOHNSON.—On July 28th, at All Saints' Parish Church, Maidenhead, Alexander Nesbitt, of St. Johnston, Co. Donegal, to Miss P. E. M. Johnson, of Brighton.

WARREN—DEMPSEY.—On September 1st, J. W. Warren, of Pendleton, Salford, to Margaret May Dempsey.

### Personal

Our old friend Mr. Ottaway has left Enfield and now lives in Cleeve, Somerset.



### Brighton Club

The above Club meets on the *second* Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., in the Winter Gardens, Ovingdean. We have had many enjoyable bowls outings this season. On August 28th we entertained the Blind Bowls Club of Eastbourne, on the rinks at St. Ann's Wells Gardens, Hove. It was a very close game, Eastbourne winning by 34 shots to 31 shots.

FRANK A. RHODES.

### Westbury Camp

The annual Camp for St. Dunstaners who once came under Miss Oliphant's area for after-care held their annual Camp at Westbury, Wiltshire, from the 10th to the 20th of July. A good time was had by all.

Camp Commandant Miss Oliphant carried out her duties in her usual efficient manner, whilst Church Strettonite Miss Arning again excelled herself as "minister of the interior." We are greatly indebted to those wonderful people who, year after year, give up their holidays to come and help us out. They are a grand lot of people. Mrs. Luce, a Warminster lady, deserves a special word of thanks for the very hard work she puts in as "minister of transport," as do all those ladies and gentlemen who put their cars and time at our disposal. If you could see our convoy of about thirty cars speeding their way to Sherborne Abbey, in Dorset, you would see what I mean.

Visits were paid to Bath Theatre and Bath and Salisbury Races; to Hinton Charterhouse, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson-Glasgow (early St. Dunstaners will remember Mrs. Robertson-Glasgow as a V.A.D.); and we were royally entertained by the Women's Section, British Legion, Westbury, the W.V.S. at Wilton, the Infantry Training School, and by various private individuals.

There were two new innovations this year—tandem riding and skittles. We played three matches, winning one, losing one and drawing one. I would respectfully pass on this skittles lark to the powers that be at Ovingdean. It certainly caught on.

The Camp indeed was a great success, but was it necessary for a certain Lancashire bloke to show off with his feats of strength? After all, Dickie, lad, those poor soldiers might possibly need that stove. (There will be a poem to follow on this little affair.)

Camp at last came to an end with our final night for those who had helped in so

many ways. Two hundred or more joined in dancing, and to the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" one more glorious camp came to an end.

E. H. NORTH.

### The Trout

*From Westbury Camp one summer's eve  
Two blind campers took their leave.  
Complete with fishing rod and creel  
Intent to catch some perch or eel,  
They said farewell, that they would try  
To bring us home some fish to fry.  
Some perch, or roach, or possibly  
A salmon for some kedgerree.*

*Returning late that summer night  
To camp came Dickie in delight.  
A fisherman I'm proved, said he,  
Fra' Lancashire, not West Countree.  
"Feel it, Gen, that massive snout."  
"Cor strewth," says I, "a blooming trout."  
"Indeed," says Dickie, filled with glee,  
"We'll have it for to-morrow's tea.  
So goodnight Bill, Clem, Bob and Fred  
I think I'll toddle off to bed."*

*He turned to go, but quite forgot  
That cursed square, that danger spot.  
His toe caught in that concrete slab,  
At that old stove he made a grab.  
To tummy clutched the stove so black,  
Fell Dickie, flat upon his back.  
We all lay still upon our beds,  
With pangs of fear and covering heads,*

*We said our prayers. Bad sinners all.  
Oh, where, or when would chimney fall?  
Where is death's sting, oh, bitter pill.  
But ain't old Dickie lying still?  
He's lying somewhere on his back,  
Has anyone a Union Jack?  
Get out your arms, we must rehearse  
"Shum! Present! And arms reverse!"*

*And then it came, the chimney fell,  
A grinding crash like fiends of hell,  
We felt our hearts beat 'neath our shirts,  
All is well. Nobody hurt.  
The chimney fell across Dick's bed.  
He rose to feet, then shook his head.  
Said he "What's all the row about.  
Where the hell's my ruddy trout?"*

*Said I "It slithered across the floor,  
It's lying somewhere around the door,  
Sticks came out to prod round beds,  
No fish was found, alive or dead.  
No fish was found, simply because—  
A blooming trout?—there never was!*

"GEN."

## Family News

Geoffrey Pearce (Hendon) has passed the Advanced Level General Certificate of Education and goes to King's College, London, in October.

Josephine Broomfield has again won the Singles and Doubles Tennis Trophies for Chertsey Convent School and holds the two Shields for another year.

Valerie Waters (Sevenoaks) has passed her General Certificate of Education in six out of seven subjects.

Julius Weeks (St. Leonards-on-Sea) has passed his entrance examination to Brookwood Grammar School, and also his Grade II music examination. He is not yet eleven.

Thirteen-year-old Jane Sutton (Madeley, Crewe) has passed the Junior Examination for the Trinity College of Music, gaining 80 marks out of a possible 100.

Mildred Horner (Holmfirth) has passed her "Commercial" examination, and Valerie Shread (King's Lynn) Part I of the Preliminary State examination.

Phyllis Redford (West Molesey), who is fourteen, won a 1st Class Diploma in the "Good Housekeeping" Institute Milk Cookery Competition (Schoolgirls). She also came second in a school competition held by McDougalls for a plain cake.

Eight year old Peter Webber (Tewkesbury) was awarded the Effort Prize for his form.

Dorothy Cole (Lower Tuffley, Glos.) has passed the fifth grade for piano and singing and was soloist in the school choir.

Little Patricia Lee (Wakefield) has passed Grade II of a Greek Dancing examination.

Ethel Dimond (East Grinstead) has passed her school swimming test.

The son (Geoffrey) and daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. A. Rowe, of Burslem, have left this country for Australia.

Helen Embleton, Trimdon, has been successful in the General Certificate of Education examination. She is a good sports-woman, too, being in the school and house teams for all games.

Pauline Potts, Ilfracombe, has passed the Chamber of Commerce examination in English, French and Geography; she has also passed a Pianoforte Grade 3 examination.

## Marriages

Donald Brookes, son of our St. Dunstaner, W. E. Brookes, was married to Miss L. M. Arnold, until recently Lounge Sister at West House, at Childwick Green,

on July 21st. The bridegroom, who served in the R.A.F. during the war, is now planning engineer with a well-known aircraft company at Southampton.

Beryl Catherine Hawkins (of Sidcup) married Mr. George P. Saunders on August 25th.

On July 26th, Elizabeth Homan (Cork). Barbara Weldrick (Hull) on July 21st, to Mr. Kenneth Wilkinson.

On August 17th, Myra Williams (Cardiff) to Mr. Peter Moverley.

The news has only just reached us that Brenda Rosemary Hazel (of Merton Park) married Mr. David Williams-Wynn, of Johannesburg, on February 25th.

Christine McLoughlin, Dublin, on July 18th.

## Births

BEATTIE.—To the wife of J. Beattie, of Mobberley, Cheshire, on August 2nd, a son—Malcolm Samuel.

EDWARDS.—To the wife of J. L. Edwards, of Coventry, on July 26th, a son—Richard.

JONES.—To the wife of S. Jones, of Hatch End, Middlesex, on August 10th, a son—Andrew Philip.

MANNERS.—To the wife of M. Manners, of Bridgend, Glamorgan, on August 15th, twin sons.

MCCARTNEY.—To the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, on August 26th, a son.

TUTTON.—To the wife of S. Tutton, of West Hounslow, on August 31st, a daughter—Stephanie.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

BURCHELL.—To W. Burchell, of Midhurst, whose sister has died in hospital.

CHISHOLM.—To G. Chisholm, of Fenham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the loss of a much-loved aunt.

COLLINGE.—To F. Collinge, of Blackpool, whose wife died in hospital on September 8th.

DAKIN.—To H. A. Dakin, of Blackpool, whose father died on August 3rd.

IBBOTSON.—To H. Ibbotson, of Withernsea, whose brother has recently died.

NEWTON.—To Roy Newton, of Oldham, whose father died on August 17th, after a short illness.

SMITH.—To C. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds, who has lost a brother very recently.

WILLIAMS.—To J. Williams, of Swansea, whose eldest brother has died in hospital.



## “ In Memory ”

### Private James Kevill, *Lancashire Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of James Kevill. He passed away at West House on September 7th. A regular soldier (enlisting in February, 1901) he lost his sight in the First World War and spent a few days with us in 1919, but it was not until six years later that he came to us finally. He did not undertake any serious training, and for many years had been a very sick man, permanently living at one or other of our Homes.

He was a widower, and our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives, particularly Mrs. Bundy, his sister.

### Private George Gardener Hill, *Royal Army Ordnance Corps*

It is with regret that we record the death of G. G. Hill, who had been a permanent resident at West House since 1952. He was nearly 81.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1950, but owing to his age and the state of his health he did not train. He was a widower and our deep sympathy is offered to his three grown-up children.

### Sapper Ernest Woodward, *Royal Engineers*

We record with deep regret the death of Ernest Woodward, of Dunstable, who died in hospital on July 26th. He was 73.

Enlisting in January, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1917, and trained as a mat-maker. Later he became a mat instructor in our workshops and was affectionately known as “Woodie.” In 1920 he continued mats at home until 1933, when ill-health forced him to give up. He had been an invalid for many years.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Woodward.

### Gunner Herbert Beed, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Beed, of Southampton. He was 71.

He came to St. Dunstan's in 1919, but his age, and the state of his health, which grew rapidly worse, prevented him taking any training. He died in hospital on August 7th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his family.

### 1st Class Blacksmith Harry John Clapson, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. J. Clapson, of Portsmouth. He was nearly 73.

Enlisting in 1902, he was invalided from the Royal Navy and came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1939. He did not train and was for a time a resident at West House.

He was a widower and our sympathy is offered to Mrs. Button, an old friend, who had cared for him since he returned to Portsmouth.

### Private Samuel Green, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of S. Green, of Chichester.

Although he was discharged from the Service in March, 1919, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1936, when he trained as a telephonist. He carried on this work until 1944 and then retired to do netting and rugs in a small way.

He leaves a widow and daughter to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

### Gunner Harold S. Thomson, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. S. Thomson, of Bruche, Warrington.

Enlisting in November, 1914, he was wounded in 1916. He came to St. Dunstan's and trained as a joiner and was a first class craftsman. When the Second War came he instructed the newly blinded men in joinery. When he returned to Warrington he went into factory work and he continued successfully at this until quite recently. He had a sudden illness and he died a few weeks later in hospital.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and son.

### Sergt. Wilfred Morton and C. H. McQuillan, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with regret of the deaths of two Australian St. Dunstaners. Wilfred Morton, of Lawley, Western Australia, served with the 12th Field Ambulance, Australian Imperial Forces, as a sergeant. Although we have kept contact with him, he had never come to St. Dunstan's. He leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

C. H. McQuillan, of Cook's Hill, New South Wales, also did not come to St. Dunstan's. Our deep sympathy is extended to his relatives.

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## The late Mr. W. Rickaby

We much regret that it was omitted from our records that our late St. Dunstaner,

W. Rickaby, of Battersea, was a Military Medallist.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## EDITORIAL

**D**URING the past month, three books of special interest to ex-Servicemen and women have been published. The first to appear was *Count Your Blessings*, by Sir Brunel Cohen, a member of St. Dunstan's Council, who himself was severely disabled in the First World War. The book is Sir Brunel's life story. Next came *The Official History of the British Legion*, by Mr. Graham Wootton, and the third is a book which has been edited by Sir Ian Fraser, entitled *The Conquest of Disability*. In it is described the way in which disabled men and women in all walks of life and in all parts of the world have overcome grievous handicaps. All three books will be reviewed in forthcoming issues of the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW.

The *British Legion History*, which is so appropriately published at this time, has a foreword by Sir Ian, from which we take the following extracts:—

"It seems to me that the Nation, and indeed the Commonwealth, owes a great deal to the British Legion for providing an example of unity where there might have been conflict, and that the British Legion owes a great deal to its Founders, many of whom are still living, but who have had no part in the writing of this book. Many, like myself, who were too young to do more than join the Legion when it was founded, and many others who came in after the Second War, will, I trust, gain much from this book by way of inspiration and example. I certainly did, and I was intrigued by the astute manoeuvres of the men who made the Legion out of so many diverse elements, driven forward as they were by zeal and faith. I was interested, too, in the sense the author gives us of the authenticity of his work based upon diligent research, and in the way he sets the Legion and the streams of thought that were fused in its creation into the general pattern of the period.

"The book necessarily tells of the activities of a few individuals, but it reflects the labour of many still living who served in the Branches or on National or other Councils during the past thirty-five years. Thousands of them did their best at the cost of leisure, and often health, to encourage and help their former shipmates and comrades in arms.

"I am told that the present membership of the British Legion, which, together with the Women's Section, exceeds a million, is composed as to about 60 per cent. of persons who served in the Second War and afterwards. There could, I think, be no greater commendation of its work than that a Society founded in one generation should continue to appeal to another in wholly altered circumstances, and that both should work together, sharing the membership and, increasingly, the leadership for the good of all.



"Our Founders taught us that the power of the Legion to help the ex-Service community by its direct benevolence as well as by its advocacy would be proportioned to its concern for the nation as a whole, and I am glad to think that this is still its attitude in balancing its own claims against those of other sections of the community. In a world where materialistic considerations and political rivalries play a large part, it is well for a people to have in its midst a group of men and women who place service high amongst the virtues, and who continue in times of peace to be guided by the fellow feeling and the sense of duty which are amongst the few good things emphasised by the experience of war."

### The London Reunion

The London Reunion was held, again most successfully, at the Windsor Rooms, Coventry Street Corner House, on Friday, September 21st.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, who was accompanied by Lady Pearson, welcomed the guests.

Sir Ian Fraser, who with Lady Fraser was in South Africa on business, sent a message of greeting and good wishes to all those present at the Reunion.

### Sixty-three Years Married

Our warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. Marsden, of Blackburn, who celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on September 2nd.

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. G. Worgan, of Woolaston, nr. Lydney, on their golden wedding (October 20th); unhappily, Mrs. Woolaston is in hospital.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. W. Watkinson, of Croston, near Preston, August 29th. Congratulations.

### Physiotherapists in Conference

St. Dunstan's physiotherapists held their annual Conference at Ovingdean during the week-end of October 5th-7th. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present on the Saturday.

The programme included demonstrations of apparatus and equipment, lectures and discussion. One of the principal speakers was Mr. W. E. Tucker, C.V.O., M.B.E., F.R.C.S. Mr. Tucker was a prisoner-of-war in Germany at the time the main body of St. Dunstaners was there, and it was due to his interest and early instruction in physiotherapy that Jimmy Legge was encouraged to follow this profession when he returned home.

Those members of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee due to retire were re-elected, as also was N. McLeod Steel as its Chairman.

### From All Quarters

A boat made by our deaf St. Dunstaner, George Fallowfield, was one of the many on show at the recent Fourth International Exhibition at Olympia.

★ ★ ★

G. H. Richards, of Birch Park, Manchester, and Mrs. Richards, were invited guests at the 3rd Centenary celebrations of the Grenadier Guards, held in Manchester early in October. They included a service at Manchester Cathedral, a reception given by the Lord Mayor, and a grand concert at the Free Trade Hall.

★ ★ ★

G. Fisk, of Colchester, exhibited some baskets at a recent Rose Show and learned later that the Princess Royal had bought one to give to the Duchess of Gloucester for her birthday, to use in the garden.

★ ★ ★

W. Abbs, of Fakenham, took three first prizes and three "Commended" at the Blind Gardeners' Show at Norwich, all for vegetables.

★ ★ ★

The *Daily Herald* of September 15th had a write-up and photograph of Charles Shallcross, in which his shop was described as "the tidiest shop in the country."

★ ★ ★

T. Taylor, of Farington, near Preston, has had a number of engagements to preach at services held in connection with the Workington Methodist Circuit.

★ ★ ★

The last street collection for the aged blind in which Percy Norris, of Australia, takes such an interest, and for which he broadcasts radio appeals, realised £1,988.

★ ★ ★

D. S. Elrod, of Sheffield, was asked by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to take part in the making of a film at Leamington Spa with his guide dog, Diana.

## London Club Notes

Now that autumn is with us and winter is just around the corner, outdoor pursuits for most of us at any rate will not be possible, except, of course, road walking, and here may I remind you that should any of you desire to participate in this invigorating and undoubted health-giving pastime, you should contact Bill Miller at 191 Marylebone Road; and for the remainder of you, may I suggest you come along and spend a few leisure hours at the Club.

The Club is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5-10 p.m., and on Saturday from 2 until 10 p.m. Anyone living in the London area will be very welcome. There are organised whist drives on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and a domino drive on Thursdays, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Also we can offer you a good variety of refreshments, so please come along. We also run competitions for the "Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial" trophies, including whist, bridge, cribbage, dominoes and darts (S.S. and T.B.). Good luck to you all.

SAM WEBSTER, *Chairman*.

## Bridge

First a reminder that the St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will be held at Ovingdean during the week-end of Friday, November 16th.

Those who have not yet sent in their names should do so at once, to Mr. Bob Willis, at Headquarters. JOCK BROWN.

*Harrogate Bridge Week.*—A party of seven from our Bridge Club made the trip for the Harrogate Bridge Week this year. They were Cook, Jolly, Rhodes, Winter, Thompson, Nuyens and Gover. Bob Willis came again with us and was indeed very useful and made very pleasant company.

We actually only played three matches this year and won only one of them. This was against the I.C.I. and was a new club for us to tackle. We had our usual outing with Frank Noakes on Thursday to the Chequers, which was a very pleasant day, visiting the stables in the afternoon. On Friday evening we held our usual "At Home" at the Dirlton, and prizes made by St. Dunstan's men were given to the winners. We had twelve tables, which was very satisfactory. Bob acted as our M.C. A word of thanks to all clubs and to everybody who had helped to make the week a success was given by H. Gover and replied to by Frank Noakes. H. G.

## Indoor Section

On September 24th the Club were invited to take a darts team to play a ladies' team at the "Duke of York," Brentford.

A good number turned out to support this meeting, and we travelled by coach from the Club to Brentford. We had a very enjoyable evening, and were given a good evening's entertainment by the ladies of Brentford. As regards the darts, we played two games, winning one and losing the other, so honours were even.

After that the evening finished up with a song and dance, and then home and, for some of us, a long ride to get there, but it was a jolly good evening's fun and I do thank the members who supported me in this venture, and shared with me the pleasures of the evening.

C. J. WALKER.

## Outdoor Section

The Walking Section started the new season with its Annual Two Miles Race, sponsored by Highgate Harriers, on September 22nd.

Naturally, after nearly four months' rest, almost everyone was badly out of training; even the London to Brighton walkers found two miles quite a trial.

In the absence of any new members, Stan Tutton, with the biggest handicap allowance, was the first to start, and taking advantage of his allowance, built up a commanding lead, which he held on to to the finish. Les. Dennis also started the season off well by finishing second, and Chas. Stafford a good third. They received their prizes immediately after the race from His Worship the Mayor of St. Pancras.

W. M.

<i>Order of Finish</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>H'cp. All.</i>	<i>Act. Time</i>
1.	S. Tutton	... 17.14	2.55	20.09
2.	L. Dennis	... 17.34	1.25	18.59
3.	C. Stafford	... 17.46	2.25	20.11
4.	A. Brown	... 18.07	.35	18.42
5.	W. Miller	... 18.17	Scr.	18.17
6.	C. Williamson	... 18.18	.55	19.13
7.	A. Bradley	—did not finish.		

## Forthcoming Walks

Nov. 17—6 miles.  
Dec. 15—7 miles.  
Jan. 19—10 miles.  
Mar. 2—12 miles.  
„ 23—7 miles Championship.  
Apr. 13—15 miles.  
May 22—London to Brighton.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Regarding the subject, forgetting one is blind.

Wouldn't it depend upon where one was, who with, what one was talking about, or what one was doing?

I learnt braille, typewriting and basket-making in St. Dunstan's so have no idea of doing such things able to see or hear, but when I'm carving a model boat I notice I cannot step back to look at my work. A french polisher before joining up, I cannot see when polishing a model.

I learnt sculling in St. Dunstan's so don't know what it is like to scull when one is able to see and hear. I have never heard wireless so mention of it doesn't trouble me, but mention of a concert does.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD, *Southwick.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Sir Ian's remarks praising the abilities of "Bob" Read, Tommy Milligan and W. Thornton should serve to stimulate the younger totally-blind St. Dunstaners to greater efforts to secure independence of action. Many of us old-timers remember the remarkable feats of independence displayed by a few of the First War young men, who somehow gave the impression of almost contempt for their disability and the armchair wallahs waiting for a boy scout or escort. "Liverpool Robbie," who ran down the centre of the Bungalow corridor, and that platoon of new "contemptibles" who were nightly seen without escorts or escorting each other to "local" places of refreshment and relaxation as far afield as Camden Town, the Edgware Road, etc. At home, however, it is a different matter, and I for one find that increasing age requires increasing effort to assert the independence. One wants increasing home activity as a sort of excuse for not going out, and it is easy to register excuses. Here in the country, where the grass verge is your only guide, and no sound of passing pedestrians to guide, one can become very nervous of travelling alone, with cars, motor-bikes and coaches whirling past. Weather permitting, I travel many miles each week and am well known by most of the regular 'bus and coach drivers, but when I go to town—Brighton, Bristol, Plymouth or London, where I once lived and got about fairly well—I am just stuck.

I believe we all have the sixth and the seventh sense of keener perception and ability to mentally visualise our immediate surroundings, but I often wonder what it is that has made sight seem superfluous in some miracle men. I read in "Reader's Digest" of the New York blind man who never carries a stick, never asks for an escort, but travels every day to his work via the crowded trains, walks about the huge building where he works and never collides. Independence is a wonderful thing, and I enjoy my own freedom of action, but it can get monotonous. A companion who is not just an escort makes the miles slip by. My dog is now ten years old and beginning to enjoy a snooze in the sun more than a long walk, and when he packs up I wonder where my independence will be.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary.*

## How to Word a Letter

Sir Clutha Mackenzie, a St. Dunstaner who is at present pioneering a service for the blind in Uganda, sends us the following enthusiastic, if amusing, letter from an African Chief, whom he had congratulated on being honoured in Her Majesty's Birthday list:—

"I am intoxicated with the greatest pleasure to have received your most delightful letter in which your congratulate me upon the honour which has been awarded to me. I have learnt from the compass of your lines that your thankful words have come from the very bottom of your heart.

I remember I some day met you in Fort Portal."

## My Friend

*I found a friend who gave me sight,  
And turned my darkness into light,  
Who guides my steps with human care,  
His life and eyes will share.*

*He taught me blindness could be won  
Without the aid of light or sun,  
He gave me confidence once more,  
And took the bitterness from war.*

*He asks so little but knows so much.  
And so responds to the slightest touch,  
God grant that we may still to blend,  
My faithful dog, My noble friend.*

RON SMITH,

*Seaford.*

## The Deaf-Blind Reunion

Through the REVIEW I would like to thank Matron Ramshaw, Miss Carlton and Miss Dagnall and all Welfare Staff for a wonderful Reunion on September 13th-18th. When the deaf boys meet there is always some surprise for us. We had a wonderful day out to France. With Mr. Moore, Frank and George, we were in good hands. I found Boulogne just the same as it was in 1915—the same old cobble stones and that hill we marched up with full pack. We returned very tired but very happy. Next we went to Horton Hall Farm. We had our photographs taken with Mr. Jordan on horse-back. He was in great form and enjoyed himself. Then came the final dinner. We were very pleased to have Dr. O'Hara and Mr. Wills with us.

We missed a lot of happy faces with the V.A.D.s leaving, but thanks to all the staff, old and new, at Ovingdean and also West House for a wonderful time. All good times come to an end, but at St. Dunstan's they come around again.

W. BELL, *Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

## Miss Auriel Smith writes :—

Dear Everybody,

I find it very difficult in a short letter to express my gratitude for the magnificent present which I have received from you all in my area.

The cheque will provide me with a wonderful hen house and wire run for my "feathered family" in Westmorland, and will constantly remind me of you all.

I am sure you will realise how sad I am to leave St. Dunstan's. It has been a very happy time.

Sometimes the journeys have been cold and difficult, but the warm-hearted welcome which has greeted me on arrival leaves many happy memories.

A great big thank you, and best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,  
AURIEL M. SMITH.

★ ★ ★

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser will be At Home on B.B.C. television from 7.35-8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31st. Sir Ian is also to be a member of the B.B.C. Television Brains Trust at 4.15-5 p.m. on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, November 11th.

## Cold Thoughts

At this time of year, with the passing of summer, our thoughts turn towards pleasant things, such as Christmas or cosy evenings by the fireside. At the same time, the prudent St. Dunstaners ought perhaps to consider the question of plumbing. This is not exactly a romantic subject, but if a little thought and planning is given to it before the onset of the really cold weather, a great deal of inconvenience can be avoided.

One of the first things a St. Dunstaner should do is to obtain the assistance of a sighted friend with a practical turn of mind. If he can be persuaded to spend an hour or two in the house, a good deal can be learned about guarding oneself against some at least of the more obvious dangers.

To start with, one should find out where the pipe from the watermain in the street enters the house. In this position there should be a tap-like gadget, technically known as a "stop valve." Should a burst or an overflow be experienced at any time, this stop valve must be shut off so that no more water may cascade over the furniture, but if there is a boiler at the back of the sitting-room grate, or an independent boiler in the kitchen, it is necessary first of all to drain the hot water system. When the stop valve has been closed, it should be tested by the simple expedient of turning on the cold tap over the sink. Provided the water has ceased to run, everything is in order. If it still runs, or comes out in dribbles, a new washer is needed at the stop valve. This is important, as otherwise, in an emergency, it would be impossible to turn off the water completely.

Having found the stop valve, one should then ask one's friend to trace the run of the cold water pipe in the house. Probably it will go straight to the tap over the sink and then continue up one of the walls into the W.C. and bathroom. Normally it is not possible to lag pipes in these positions, but during cold spells, some extra heating in the kitchen and bathroom will go a long way towards preventing bursts. Having arrived in the bathroom and examined the course of the cold pipe, it will be found that it disappears into the roof space. St. Dunstaners should not really venture any further, but should politely ask their friends to go up into the roof space and tell them whether or not the cold water pipe has been



lagged. Other points to note here are the presence of some sort of protection to the cold water tank itself, and whether or not there is a space between the main walls and the eaves with daylight showing between the tiles or slates. If the friend can then be persuaded to wrap some hessian around the cold water pipes and to fill up the space between the main walls and eaves with sacking or other cloth, one can feel hopeful that the cold weather will not bring about frozen pipes. In addition, if the cold water tank can be properly protected by a rather more substantial lagging, and the larger signs of daylight coming through the slates obscured, even better protection will be afforded. When lagging pipes, extra layers of covering should be provided to pipes which run near the eaves and to any caute bends.

Should the worst happen and a burst occur, the furniture may be damaged. It is wise to take out a Comprehensive Insurance Policy to cover this risk. Advice on this can be given by the Estate Department.

PETER MATTHEWS.

### Liverpool Club Notes

On Saturday, September 8th, the Club had its annual summer outing. This time it was to that picturesque little spot in Wales, Bettws-y-coed, and Llandudno. We left Liverpool in warm sunshine (a rarity this year) and proceeded via the Mersey Tunnel through the Cheshire Countryside, on to Wales via Hawarden, stopping at a quaint country inn for elevenses, on again over the moors which were ablaze with purple heather to Bettws-y-coed, arriving just in time for dinner, which was served at the Waterloo Hotel.

After everyone had done justice to an excellent repast, the coach took the ladies of the party up to the famous "Swallow Falls," which were in full spate, the boys remaining in the hotel lounge, which was much safer.

The coach having collected us on its return, we then went on to Llandudno, where the afternoon was free for all to enjoy themselves as they wished. The day being hot and sunny, many wended their way to the Happy Valley, the attraction being the outdoor concert, which was well patronised. Walking back to tea along the promenade we stopped to feed the seagulls with biscuits; the birds are used to visitors

and swoop down to take food from your hands.

An excellent tea was served, after which we proceeded on our way home via the coast route—Colwyn Bay, Abergele, St. Asaph, etc. A pleasant hour was spent at the usual "milk bar" (?) for liquid refreshments and to try out our voices to see if the Welsh air had improved them. Leaving Shotton for home at 9 p.m., we duly arrived at the Pier Head at 10 o'clock, where the party broke up after what was voted to be one of the best outings we have had.

Our Christmas party will be held this year on December 1st, particulars of which will be given later.

JOSEPH BLAKELY,  
*Chairman.*

### Chess

We have just had our 1956 Chess Weekend at Ovingdean, and have a new champion in Bill Hodder. He has been very near to winning the Cup in the last three years, had kept in good practice, and was very keen to do his best this year. Our hearty congratulations, Bill. Jack Campbell had the same match points as Hodder—3½ out of 4—but under the Sonnen-Berger system the trophy went to Hodder on the narrow margin of half a point. Kirkbright had not touched a chess board since last year's event, yet he took third prize with a total of three points. Our old pal, George Fallowfield, had 2½ points and so took the fourth prize, but in one game he overlooked a stalemate when in an overwhelming position. It should have been three points, George.

Our friend, R. W. Bonham, who is now the British Blind Champion, was at hand to help wherever possible, and played eight of our men simultaneously, winning all games outright, but he admits that he met some tough opposition on several boards. Campbell and Hodder both missed winning chances and the former scorned a certain draw and went all out for a win, but it did not quite come off. This is the stuff of which Jack Campbell is made.

The general standard of play was higher than it has been before, and St. Dunstan's must certainly be represented in next year's Blind Championship, which takes place at Plymouth.

The boys of Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School helped us on the Saturday and Varndean School on Sunday. They

operated the clocks and scored the games, and made themselves generally useful.

Commandant and Matron gave us their support and the latter presented the prizes in her usual charming manner. As usual Miss Carlton was at hand at all times, seeing that everything went as smoothly as possible. The players showed their appreciation by presenting both Miss Carlton and Mrs. Bonham with a bouquet each. A good time was had by all, including your humble servant.

CHARLIE KELK.

## Family News

The parents of J. Horton, of Barnsley, celebrated their golden wedding on October 6th. His grandparents also reached their golden wedding.

Another fine old couple are the parents of E. Laker, of Haverhill. His father is now 92 and his mother 82.

Our sympathy to Mrs. F. Jeanmonod, of London, S.E., whose mother died very suddenly a few days before the London Reunion, and to Mrs. Alan Reynolds, of Shrewsbury, whose father has died. Mrs. E. Lake, of Scarborough, has also recently suffered the loss of her father.

Brian Rogers, Kingsbridge, has passed, second class, the examination of the City and Guilds.

Pamela Carlton, Morecambe, has passed for the scholarship and is now adding swimming to her accomplishments.

Tony Martin (Lovedean) has passed out as a Boy-Sergeant, and is now to join his regiment in Germany. Tony has won the All Boys' High Jump Championship, a Champion Badge, and the Silver Medal for the Athlete of the Year. His parents knew nothing at all about these successes until the Passing Out presentations, when they were told by his Colonel.

Christopher Lawlor, Leamore, has become engaged to Miss Joyce Haycock, of Bloxwich.

Christine Carney, Dunstable, has passed Grade II music examination.

The small grand-daughter of H. A. T. Pearce, of Leighton Buzzard, has won the Baby Bronze Medal and been highly commended for tap dancing.

## Sons' and Daughters' Marriages

Sidney Cox, Egham, on July 28th, to Miss Audrey Dickenson, and Sheila Cox, Egham, on September 8th, to Alfred Jezeph.

Keith Brown, Nuneaton, on September 1st, to Miss Maureen Jones.

Mary Lucocq, Llandaff North, to John Hemingway, on October 6th.

Charles Wilkinson, Hull, on September 1st, to Miss Jean Marshall.

The youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Mears, of Chilwell, Nottingham, was married to First Lieutenant Gordon Hewson, Pilot Officer, Fleet Air Arm, on August 25th, by special licence, at Attenborough Church. The reception was held at the Bothe Hotel, Sawley, in Derbyshire.

The daughter of H. C. Hoare, of Brighton, was married on September 29th.

On September 14th, Joyce, daughter of Frank Braithwaite, of Guildford, married George Williams, and on October 9th Mr. Braithwaite gave a cocktail party at the Savoy Hotel, at which Sir Ian and Lady Fraser, Mr. Tom Milligan, Mr. Robert Young, Miss Carlton and Miss Cree were among those present.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Spencer, of Gillingham, was married on June 20th.

## Thanks

W. H. Collins, of Blackpool, writes:—

"With reference to my collecting box for the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals which only had one halfpenny in it on my arrival at Brighton, I would like to thank all the boys and many others who responded to the cause to the sum of £6 16s. 2d., which was a very remarkable effort in the short time. I am most grateful."

## Grandfathers

H. Hurst, of Great Longstone; H. Langton, of Bottisford; S. Allcott, of Hornsea, Yorkshire; F. P. Fishwick, of St. Helens; J. W. Fletcher, of Beeston, Notts; H. Tweed, of Newmarket (Jeanette Elaine, born in the U.S.A.); T. Callaghan, of Woodbridge (another grand-daughter).

## Births

WHITCOMBE—On October 4th, to the wife of J. Whitcombe, of Chandlers Ford, a son—Anthony John.

## Marriages

JONES—ELMS—On September 28th, R. Jones, of Fforest Fach, Swansea, to Miss Elms, at Brighton.

LOWNDES—ROBINSON—On September 29th, Nellie Lowndes to Mr. Roy Robinson.



## “ In Memory ”

### Private Sidney Herbert Causton, *Royal West Kent Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of S. H. Causton, of Norwich. He was 79.

He served in the First World War and was wounded at Vimy Ridge. He had been the oldest man in the Company to go overseas. It was not until January, 1952, that he came to St. Dunstan's and his health and age prevented him taking up any training.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy goes out to his son and his daughter, Mrs. Brenda Pearson.

### Private Patrick Coffey, *Royal Army Ordnance Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of P. Coffey, of Chadderton.

He served both in the First and Second World Wars, but it was not until 1955 that he came to St. Dunstan's, when he was already a sick man and therefore unable to undertake training.

He leaves a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

### Private John Robert Harkness, *17th Northumberland Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of J. R. Harkness, of Grays, Essex, at the age of 70.

Discharged from the Army in May, 1919, he came to St. Dunstan's in 1924 and trained as a basket-maker. He carried on this work until after the last war, when he took up netting. He had been in poor health for some time and was recently admitted to hospital, where he died on October 12th.

Mr. and Mrs. Read, of Grays, were among those who attended the funeral on October 18th.

To his wife and family our very deep sympathy is offered.

### Sergeant Ernest Kirkland, *King's Liverpool Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of E. Kirkland, of New Longton, near Preston. He died suddenly in hospital on October 14th.

Although he was wounded and lost his sight as a result of service in the First World War, he did not come to us until 1952. He became a poultry farmer, but of late years had taken life fairly easily, not being a fit man. His death after only three days in hospital nevertheless came as a shock to us.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Auxiliary Coast Guardsman Albert Edwin Hatherley, *Auxiliary Coast Guards*

We record with deep regret the death, on October 4th, of A. E. Hatherley, of Beesands, near Kingsbridge, Devon. He was 58.

In 1942, while on South Coast watch, he was wounded by a bomb explosion during an air raid. He was discharged from the Service and came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1943. He did not, however, train, but made small nets of tarred string for floats on crab pots. Rug-making was also a craft which he picked up easily.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and daughter.

### Private Walter Moorcroft, *1st Labour Battalion*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Moorcroft, of Wavertree, Liverpool.

He saw service from August, 1914, until August, 1917, and two years later came to St. Dunstan's. For some years he had been in business, but his failing health had forced him to take life very quietly, doing a little occupational hobby only. He had been ill in hospital for some considerable time and he died there on October 15th.

To Mrs. Moorcroft our deep sympathy is sent.

### Lance Corporal Herbert Albert Wagg, *1st Norfolk Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of H. A. Wagg, of Dersingham. He was 71.

He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in April, 1917, and trained as a poultry-farmer and mat-maker, but he gave this up in 1923. His health had been bad for a considerable time before he was admitted to West House in September, 1954. On October 9th he was transferred to hospital and he died there on October 15th.

He leaves a widow and two grown-up children, to whom our very sincere sympathy is extended.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BRETT—To E. J. Brett, of Aldershot, who lost his wife on September 13th.

KEMPSTER—To J. Kempster, of Hemel Hempstead, who has lost a brother.

POWER—To G. Power, of Filton, Bristol, whose younger brother has recently died.

MCCANN—To T. McCann, of Kirby Cross, Essex, whose sister has died in Ireland. At her request, our St. Dunstaner had gone to Ireland to visit her, but she died while he was there.

DONNELLY—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Donnelly, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, whose eldest son died very suddenly on October 14th. He was only 39 and leaves a wife and four children.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 442—VOLUME XL

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PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### WAR PENSIONS IMPROVEMENTS

#### Special Allowances Benefit Many St. Dunstaners

ON Monday, November 19th, Sir Ian Fraser, M.P., asked the Minister of Pensions "whether he has now reviewed war pensions provisions relating to the most seriously disabled cases."

THE MINISTER OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (*Mr. John Boyd Carpenter*):

Yes, Sir. The Government have been considering the position of the older war pensioners with a serious disablement—borne by most of them since the 1914-18 war—and have decided to introduce a new allowance for the war disablement pensioners who are aged 65 or over and whose assessment is 40 per cent. or more. The allowance will be at rates ranging between 5s. and 15s. a week, according to the degree of disablement.

The Government have also decided to give some further help to the most seriously disabled war pensioners. In order to do this, the existing rate for the comforts allowance will be increased from 10s. to 20s. a week. We also propose to extend eligibility for comforts allowance at the present rate of 10s. to war pensioners at present not receiving it, but in receipt of either unemployability supplement or constant attendance allowance.

The cost of all these changes will be about £1.6 million in a full year. The necessary amendments will be made in the Royal Warrants, and it is intended to bring all these improvements, full details of which I am circulating in the Official Report, into operation on the first pay-day in February, 1957.

In a supplementary question Sir Ian Fraser asked the Minister "whether he is aware that the extension of these special allowances to new and wider categories of disabled men will be very widely welcomed by the British Legion, the British Legion in Scotland, the Royal Air Forces Association, St. Dunstan's and other Societies which have recently made representations, among other things, in this sense. Could he say how many disabled ex-servicemen he thinks will benefit?"

*Mr. Boyd Carpenter*: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for the earlier part of his supplementary question.

In reply to the latter part, the allowance at age 65 for disabilities in excess of 40 per cent. will, it is calculated, affect 55,000 war pensioners. The doubling of the existing comforts allowance will benefit about 8,000, and the extension of the comforts allowance at the lower rate will benefit about 13,000

\* \* \* \*



A study of St. Dunstan's records shows that approximately one quarter of all St. Dunstaners are 65 years of age or over and will therefore receive the special age allowance of 15s. a week. Those St. Dunstaners now receiving a comforts allowance of 10s. a week will receive an additional 10s. and many other St. Dunstaners who have not hitherto received a comforts allowance at all will now receive 10s. a week.

The representatives of the British Legion and BLESMA and other societies have been advocating improvements on these lines for some years and I referred to them in my speech at the Annual Conference of the British Legion and again in the House of Commons on the 30th July.

I congratulate the societies concerned on this success.

It remains the British Legion's policy to ask that during the lifetime of the present Parliament the basic rate of war pension shall be raised to 90s. a week for the 100 per cent. man with appropriate increases for lesser disabilities and for widows.

The Ministry tell me that an explanation as to how to obtain the age allowance will be sent as soon as possible to all concerned but if any St. Dunstaners are in difficulties they should write to Mr. Rice at 1, South Audley Street, or go and have a word with Mr. Banks if they are at Ovingdean.

No application will be necessary for the increase of the new comforts allowance.

IAN FRASER.

### Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

On Sunday, December 9th, the 35th Anniversary of the death of our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, a Memorial Service will be held at the Ovingdean Chapel at 11.30 a.m. St. Dunstan's Padre, the Rev. W. J. Taylor, will conduct the Service and our President, Sir Neville Pearson, will read the Lesson. The Bishop of Chichester will give the Address and later will dedicate eight windows which have been placed in the Chapel.

On the morning of Saturday, December 8th, a party of St. Dunstaners will go from Headquarters to Hampstead Cemetery where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Lloyds, at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

### Remembrance Day, 1956

St. Dunstaners took part in War Memorial Services all over the country on November 11th and at the Cenotaph in Whitehall more than a thousand ex-servicemen and women of both wars and all arms, led by Sir Ian Fraser, paraded, including twenty-six St. Dunstaners.

★ ★ ★

A surprise, and most welcome, visitor to the Birmingham Club meeting on October 14th was Miss Berry, one-time V.A.D.

### Dance

A St. Dunstan's Dance will be held on *Friday, December 7th*, from 7.30—11 p.m., at the Trevelyan Hall, St. Anne's Lane, Great Peter Street, off Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Tickets, 3s. single, 5s. double, from Miss Hoare, Flat 4, 9 The Paragon, Blackheath, S.E.3. Tel. (office hours) Reliance 1084, (home) Lee Green 7591.

Miss Hoare will arrange transport to the Hall from Victoria and Waterloo if you give her notice of arrival time. Please write by December 2nd, as it is necessary to know numbers for catering in good time.

A. SPURWAY.

### Mr. Nigel Pearson

Mr. Nigel Arthur Pearson, only son of Sir Neville Pearson and of the late the Hon. Mrs. C. W. Hordern, and grandson of our Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, was married on Saturday, October 27th, to Lady Frances Elizabeth Ann Hay, youngest daughter of the Marquess of Tweeddale, and of the late Marchioness of Tweeddale. The marriage took place at St. Mary's, Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland.

On behalf of the Council and of St. Dunstan's men, a telegram was sent by Sir Ian Fraser expressing best wishes to the bride and bridegroom for their future happiness, and among the wedding presents was a St. Dunstan's rug, which was sent as a gift from St. Dunstan's men.

## London Club Notes

### Bridge Section

Cheerful messages from Drummer Downs at Ovingdean show that he is still making good progress, and greatly looking forward to meeting many old friends at the Bridge Week-end this month. In the meantime, Jock Brown has been carrying on the work of organising matches, etc. Blue Circle (our old friend, Bob Gellatly's team) were the last visitors and we scored a win.

The London Business Houses team has begun its series and the record so far is won one, drawn one, lost one.

### Outdoor Section

#### Walking

#### Five Miles, Regent's Park, October 20th

With two of our members on the sick list there were only six, the minimum number required to hold a race, able to take part in the first of the London Club races on October 20th.

It was a really fine afternoon for walking and Mr. Willis acted as starter. Billy Miller had a nasty cold, and had he not built up a fair lead in the early stages of the race he may have had to be content to finish amid field for a change; for Chas. Williamson walked very well indeed, and was definitely catching Billy up at the finish. Archie Brown was also going great guns, and hotly in pursuit of Charles.

Alf Bradley came next, closely followed by Stan Tutton, with Charles Stafford doing the strong man stuff, pushing everyone else along.

Charles Williamson won the sealed handicap by a mere two seconds from Archie Brown; only two handicap prizes were awarded.

W. M.

<i>Order of Finish</i>	<i>Act. Time</i>	<i>H'cp. All</i>	<i>H'cp. Time</i>	<i>Pos'n.</i>
1. W. Miller ...	46-19	Sc.	46-19	6
2. C. Williamson	47-13	2-50	44-23	1
3. A. Brown ...	47-28	2-30	44-58	2
4. A. Bradley ...	48-32	3-30	45-02	4
5. S. Tutton ...	49-59	5-00	44-59	3
6. C. Stafford ...	51-45	5-30	46-15	5

## Brighton Club

To all Brightonians—The Annual General Meeting of the above Club will be held in the Winter Garden, St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, on Thursday, 13th December, at 7 p.m., to be followed by games.

All St. Dunstaners in the Brighton area are welcome.

FRANK A. RHODES.

## Fishing News

In the Dover Three Day Boat Festival at the end of September, that veteran fisherman, Tom Daborn, of Bexleyheath, was runner-up in the three days' aggregate. During the course of the three days he weighed in the heaviest bag of cod, for which he received the Challenge Cup, and the heaviest fish. His prizes, in addition to the Cup, included a pair of sheets, a folding coffee table and a bottle of rum punch. It was, he says, his best effort so far this year.

★ ★ ★

Our old friend, Ernest Russell, of Leeds, on October 7th took part in his first fishing competition. It was fished at Newton-on-Ouse, near York, and, he says "with borrowed tackle, some good advice and plenty of beginner's luck, I managed to win the competition with a total catch of 21lb. 1½oz." Mr. Russell received a cup which he holds for twelve months.

Congratulations, to both.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstaners will remember Sir Ian Fraser's fishing bet with Colonel "Mike" Ansell. The season is now over and Colonel Ansell has won. The score—Colonel Ansell, 5 salmon; Sir Ian Fraser, 2, and Sir Ian has paid over £1.

## "We Had to Laugh"

St. Dunstaners are always willing to tell a joke against themselves. C. E. Temperton won't mind, we are sure, if we quote from a recent letter of his to Headquarters. He writes:—

"We thoroughly enjoyed our stay in Ovingdean. It was lovely and we are already looking forward to our next one in 1957. I always feel wide awake in Brighton. I get about five hours' sleep and feel as fresh as a daisy. I don't look like one, you know, at least, I hope I don't.

"I must tell you this. T. Cooper and I came out of the bedroom and walked up the corridor arm in arm. We arrived at the lift and stood talking. After a long time, Tommy said 'The lift is a long time coming, Charlie.' I replied, 'Yes, it is.' We went on talking then I said, 'I think you had better ring again.' He said, 'I haven't rung yet. I thought you had.' We had to laugh."

[The Editor would like to hear your story. There will be 10s. 6d. for each one used.]



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I listened with interest about those independent blinded men who find their way about without escort. Mr. Radford's letter contradicts itself. He talks of independence and, at the end of his letter, he says he does not know what he will do when his dog packs up, so therefore he is dependent on his dog taking him around.

Now with regard to those men who get around alone, in my opinion they are not clever but foolhardy, and what I say about them is—get someone to take you about. The risk is not worth it and sooner or later you will be unlucky. It is better to be safe than sorry, if you have a chance to be sorry.

Yours sincerely,

E. B. OXBOROUGH,  
*Great Yarmouth.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Has any St. Dunstaner, I wonder, shared my experience of reading Braille in his dreams, getting along quite well for three or four lines, and then been annoyed to find that the Braille tails off into meaningless signs or words that make no sense? When this last happened to me I made matters worse by beginning to think of writing this letter, and so my night's rest was further curtailed. I had better get this off before it happens again.

Talking of Braille reminds me of a book I read about Helen Keller who, when a student, is said to have read Braille so assiduously that her finger bled. I don't know whether this was an American exaggeration, but I *do* know that if I try to read Braille too long my fingers become numb, especially when the weather is cold, and then I can't make out what the beastly little dots mean.

I wonder whether others have found, like me, that it is difficult to find a comfortable position for a Braille book when sitting lazily on what the Americans call an "over-stuffed" chair, especially when the cat insists upon sharing one's knees. I have found that by placing a board across the two arms of the chair with sufficient depth to hold the book, I can manage much better, to say nothing of the extra comfort for pussy.

Yours sincerely,

S. A. CHAMBERS,  
*Northfield, Birmingham.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I have heard it said that when one is dreaming, one sees only black and white. That is wrong. In all my dreams I see colour and colours just as they ought to be. Last night I had a dream that I met quite a lot of my old pals. They were all in khaki and so was I. I saw the green grass, the sky, trees, and a black and white dog with a lovely meaty pork chop (one does queer things in a dream; I was hungry and took the chop from the dog and ate it. It tasted lovely!).

If ever I am dreaming and it happens not to be a nice dream, or a nightmare, I can either say to myself in the dream that I am only dreaming, or tell myself that I am blind and that's that!

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES E. TEMPERTON,  
*Hull.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Over a long period, we have had many articles and letters in the REVIEW about "blindness." Many of the writers don't speak on blindness objectively, but as a personal problem. There is one Somerset correspondent in particular whose letters I can identify long before I have finished reading them. These letters, always in the first person, are in no way helpful to anyone.

The subject of blindness is not interesting to sighted people, and should be of less and less interest to us, now we are so familiar with it and trained to live normal lives. One cannot fully discuss the subject in a letter and to write a book about blindness would be a sheer waste of time, when there are more important things to do in life.

The fact that many blind people are efficient and accomplished is proof that the handicap, and I realise that blindness is a handicap, can be overcome. Again, one does not lose the sense of beauty when one loses physical sight. On the contrary, I would venture to suggest that a blind person becomes more sensitive to the "unseen" beauties of life. The senses are only extensions of the brain, that is the important factor. As Shakespeare put it, "It is the mind that enricheth the body."

If a blind person is physically fit and his other senses are intact, what is there to make a fuss about? Let's get on with the job of living, or would you rather be a fish?

Yours sincerely,

H. POLLITT, *Farmworth.*

DEAR EDITOR,

During the recent Physiotherapy Conference at Ovingdean, it was very pleasant to meet other St. Dunstan's members of Round Table. I met Paddy Humphries, Tiny Poynton and Jimmy Delaney, now an ex-Tabler, on account of his advanced years.

For some time I have thought it would be a good idea if those of us who are Tablers could know of each other. Perhaps even it might be possible for some of us to get together at a Round Table National Conference. I was interested to find that the others shared my feelings in this connection.

Could we have a register of any St. Dunstan Tablers? It would be interesting to hear their views on these suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

LESLIE A. WEBBER,  
Tenkesbury.

[The Editor would be glad to publish the names of St. Dunstaners who are Tablers if they will send them to 1 South Audley Street, W.1.]

### The Horizon

*My mind, to me, is a gallery,  
Filled with scenes which I hold dear,  
Garnered and painted in patterns clear  
By Nature's brush on memory's sphere.  
Have I not seen the dawn arise,  
To sweep the darkness from the sky  
And with the song-bird on its nest  
Greet the day which God had blest?  
Have I not watched the ploughman strong,  
Cutting his furrows straight and long,  
Like earthen ropes on which birds throng,  
Robbing the soil to feed their young?  
Oh, the joy of that field I knew,  
Each spring o'erspread with a carpet blue  
Sprinkled and washed by the morning dew,  
Renewing each day its heavenly hue.  
Have I not seen green turned to gold,  
On Sussex Downs, or Yorkshire fold,  
Dreamed of the oaks in Kent's fair Weald,  
Then pondered the magic that hides in a seed.  
Have I not felt the soft rain beat  
On upturned face in summer heat,  
Watched day fade into twilight retreat  
Ere night unfurled its star-lit shield.  
Life cannot weary, or yet lose its glow  
When lived by the truths which nature bestows,  
Simple philosophy, but oh! how it grows  
When lamps artificial in life burn low.*

T. ROGERS.

### Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

Many St. Dunstaners have taken an interest over the years in this little fund, which was started in 1945 by Mr. Ottaway, and whose object is to supply Braille watches to the civilian deaf-blind. Since that date nearly £900 has been subscribed, almost entirely by St. Dunstaners, and forwarded to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League.

The League has always been most grateful for the practical help which St. Dunstaners have given and which has been the means of enabling very many deaf-blind persons to be supplied with a watch. They tell me, however, that there are still a number of their members who have no watch; the cost of these is now £4 5s. 6d., and they do give real pleasure to our deaf-blind friends.

Should any St. Dunstaner wish to contribute to the Fund this year I shall be happy to receive their donations.

A. D. LLOYDS, *Hon. Treasurer.*

### Manchester Club Notes

With the end of the holiday period, the Club is back to regular meetings, and competition games are almost completed.

We have to record our sincere thanks to Mrs. Jackson, of Levenshulme, for her kind invitation to her annual party on the 17th October. At this party, as usual, we joined with disabled members of BLESMA and a group of civilian blind persons.

On November 7th we gathered around the tables at the Wellington Hotel, Manchester, to participate in a hot-pot supper, which was followed by an impromptu concert. Our guests included Miss Everitt (Welfare Visitor), Miss E. G. Doel (recently Welfare Visitor), Mr. Charlie Clarke, who has been so kind and very generous to the Club, and Mrs. Jackson. This party was intended to take the place of the trip to the Blackpool Home at Armistice time. The function was enjoyed by the thirty people who attended.

J. SHAW, *Secretary.*

★ ★ ★

Three large pages, well illustrated, in the magazine, "Teamwork," published by the Nuffield Organisation, were devoted in June to Bert Greasley, of Coventry, and his guide dog, Rufus, to illustrate the splendid work of training guide dogs. Bert is an operative in the firm's Engines Branch.



## Behind the T.V. Scenes

For six or more hours of every day, the B.B.C. entertains viewers with its variety of programmes—all requiring much advanced planning and split-second timing, of which the general public can have little conception.

Certainly Sir Ian and Lady Fraser had no idea of the preparation needed until the B.B.C. invaded their home recently.

But to start at the beginning we must go back to early July, when the first outline of the programme was discussed and some "outdoor" shots taken in the garden. There followed several conferences and checking of facts and figures. Then, a day before the actual transmission, the "invasion" of St. John's Lodge began in real earnest with engineers laying their cables, preparing the lighting, and fixing other equipment. More than five hundred yards of cable had to be laid to transmit the programme, and the value of the basic units was estimated at £75,000. The actual mobile control van, the nerve centre of the whole programme, from which the producer directs the cameras, cost £50,000, and each of the three cameras used were worth £5,000.

In the transmission of this particular programme there were, too, many more headaches for the producer and his staff than are usual, for at the last moment the unit which was to have transmitted the programme was required to "stand by" for any developments over the Middle East crisis, which had flared up that morning, and another unit had to be brought up hurriedly from Bristol to take over. And when all was at last ready and the principal players were alerted with that ever anxious command "Stand by . . . one minute to go," a team of twenty-nine, including the production staff, camera men, sound engineers, vision control operators, electricians, a lighting engineer, a planning engineer, a maintenance engineer, a Post Office engineer, and riggers were at the ready to play their part in making yet another T.V. programme.

Twenty-five minutes later, Richard Dimbleby had thanked Sir Ian and Lady Fraser for being hosts to millions of viewers, and before producer Humphrey Fisher could reach the warmth of St. John's Lodge to conduct a post-mortem on all that had gone before, men were disconnecting cables and cameras—another job over.

And two hours later Sir Ian's home was back to normal again.

## From All Quarters

J. S. Taylor, of Doncaster, is giving a great deal of his spare time helping to get a local Civilian Blind Centre started.

★ ★ ★

Ron Phillips, of Southwick, has just erected a fence to his front garden and there was great excitement on October 11th when a description and pictures of him appeared in the evening paper.

★ ★ ★

At 70 years of age, Frank Cooley, of Langley, has won his silver medal for old time dancing. He already had the bronze medal.

★ ★ ★

W. Watkinson, of Croston, near Preston, is famed as the local domino champion. Judging by the number of prizes he has won he deserves his reputation.

★ ★ ★

On August 31st A. T. Brooks, of Bourne-mouth, retired from the staff of Lloyds Bank after 35 years' service. High tribute was paid to him by the Manager when, in the presence of the whole staff of the branch, he presented our St. Dunstaner with a dinner service on behalf of the management. He particularly spoke of the great affection which "Brookie" had inspired among his colleagues. Tribute was also paid to Mrs. Brooks—and to her skill as a cook (she presented a large iced cake to the staff). A long report appeared in the Bank's magazine "The Dark Horse."

★ ★ ★

A. W. Hurrell, of Kenley, who retired (officially) two years ago, never has an idle moment. He has just made a bureau for his wife from an old cupboard, in addition to many other joinery articles, to say nothing of the one hundred and one jobs in the garden. In fact, he says he cannot find time to do all he wants to do. What are other St. Dunstaners doing in their retirement?

★ ★ ★

George Shed, who is one of our second war shop-keepers, has, as a hobby, racing pigeons. This season, as a member of the Sussex Pigeon Fanciers Club, he has won one first prize, two seconds and two thirds.

★ ★ ★

At the local flower show on November 8th, J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, was awarded two first prizes, one second and three thirds for his chrysanthemums.

## Family News

George Fallowfield, Junior, who is a senior motor mechanic and driver in the Royal Air Force, and a regular serving man, was in the Egyptian engagement from the beginning.

Major Frank Woodrow (Alderbury) has returned from Malaya. He is in R.E.M.E.

Janet Stafford, King's Langley, has been awarded the bronze medal for drama by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Our sympathy is offered to the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Strutt, whose husband has died, and to Mrs. A. H. Kay (Letchworth) who has lost her sister.

Little Joy Cope (Stoke-on-Trent), who is only 3½, appeared in a ballet and tap dancing display at Queen's Hall, Burslem.

Leslie, the little daughter of R. J. Vowles, of Portsmouth, has won seven medals for dancing this year—two gold, two silver and three bronze. With her two year old sister, Julie, she also took part in a mannequin display recently.

## Sons' and Daughters' Marriages

Mary Patricia Long (Ballincollig), on October 27th, to Michael Fitzgerald.

## Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Back, of Shaldon, November 11th; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bocking, of Morecambe, November 25th.

## Grandfathers

S. Robinson, of Cookstown (a grandson). A grandson, too, for F. Crabtree, of Leeds.

## Miss Jessie Brett

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss Jessie Brett who was a V.A.D. at the Bungalow during and after the 1914-1918 war. She died at Bexhill early in November. Our sympathy is offered to her sister, Miss M. Brett, who herself was a V.A.D. and later Assistant Matron at Cornwall Terrace.

## Miss Edith Davis

We have also heard with deep regret of the death of Miss Edith Davis who for many years was an escort and helper, in particular at the meetings of the Bridge Club during the last war. She died on November 16th after a long illness, and our sympathy is extended to her two sisters, one of whom, Mrs. Helen Davis, will be known to members of the London Club.

*Wally Thomas writes :*

## George Ellis

I first met George Ellis five years ago. During the course of our conversation, George said "I have an idea for brightening up the 'REVIEW'." He carried on to say "It's quite simple really. You know these first war fellows still have the old fighting blood in 'em. All I need do is write a short article which will slightly annoy 'em, then you will see some fierce letters in the 'REVIEW'." As every reader of the "REVIEW" knows, George did write his articles and the fierce letters followed. It certainly brightened the "REVIEW." Sparks flew in all directions. Insults were hurled at George. He wasn't upset about it. On the contrary, he was amused for his plan was working wonderfully well.

I am a totally deaf-blind St. Dunstaner. I owe George a great debt of gratitude. He knew I was interested in sport and current affairs. Each week, he wrote me an eight page (both sides) Braille letter, conveying all sorts of news which he had gathered from the radio and other sources.

George struggled desperately against ill-health for years. A short time ago he was taken gravely ill. During this period he kept saying "I must write to Wally." For days he fumbled helplessly and tragically at his Braille writing machine, attempting the impossible. He was still possessed with the sincere desire to help, but at this stage not possessed with the ability of doing it. He was taken to hospital and there he died on November 5th, at the young age of 34. A grand fellow, a great pal, who will be sadly missed by many.

*A. G. Emerson writes :*

During the course of my short life I have come across quite a few grand chaps, but never have I met one half as grand as George.

He was always in pain, but also ready for a laugh, and had more inside than anybody I now know. All this and a lot more adds up and makes George, and I am very honoured to say that "He was my pal."

## Births

FOYLE.—On November 4th, to the wife of S. Foyle, of Bedford, a son.

NOLAN.—On November 4th, to the wife of J. Nolan, of Acton, W.3, a daughter.

JENSEN.—On November 11th, to the wife of E. Jensen, of Perivale, a son—Michael Ian.



## “ In Memory ”

**Private William T. Coleman, 24th County of London (T.F.) Regt.**

We record with deep regret the death of W. T. Coleman, of Carshalton, at the age of 66. Discharged from the Army in June, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's towards the end of 1934. He trained as a netter and continued with this work until 1951, when ill-health forced him to give up. He leaves a widow and a grown-up son, to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

**Private Michael Costello, 1st Newfoundland Regt.**

With deep regret we record the death of M. Costello, of Clacton-on-Sea. He was 64. Wounded at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's the following year and many men of those early days will remember him. Like many of our Colonial St. Dunstaners of those days, he was a great sportsman and particularly a good oarsman.

He trained as a smallholder, and continued with this for some years. In September of this year he was taken ill, later going to Ovingdean for convalescence. Then he entered hospital and on his discharge was transferred to West House, where he died on November 12th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Costello.

**Private George Dawson, 1/6 Suffolk Regt.**

We record with deep regret the death of G. Dawson, of Carlton, near Newmarket, who died in hospital on November 8th. He was 64.

He too, came to St. Dunstan's in 1917. He trained first as a basket-maker but later took over a smallholding, and he had carried this on for a long time, although his health had been poor for some years. He was taken seriously ill in August and was admitted to hospital, where he had a leg amputated. After a brief spell at home he went back to hospital, where he died soon afterwards.

He leaves a widow and grown-up son to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

**A.C.2 George Wesley Ellis, Royal Air Force**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of George Ellis, of Liverpool, at the early age of 34. He served with the Royal Air Force from 1941 until 1943, and when he came to St. Dunstan's trained first as a telephonist. Handicapped, however, as he always was by bad health, he turned later to journalism. He was never happier than when he was writing, and he had many articles accepted in the national press and elsewhere. His letters to the REVIEW will long be remembered.

Our St. Dunstaner, Violet Formstone, was among those who attended the funeral.

To Mrs. Ellis and her little son and daughter we send our deep sympathy.

**Private William Henry Neal, Munster Fusiliers**

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Neal, of Bampton, Oxford. He was 72. He was discharged from the Army in January, 1919, but it was not until January, 1948, that he came to us, when his age and the state of his health prevented him undertaking any training.

He had been in failing health for some time and he died on October 27th.

To his sister and nephew our sincere sympathy is extended.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

**HAROLD**—To T. Harold, of Romford, Essex, whose father died on October 18th.

**HURRELL**—To A. Hurrell, of Kenley, Surrey, whose sister has died in hospital after a short illness.

**KEMPSTER**—To J. Kempster, of Hemel Hempstead, who has suffered a further loss in the death of his sister. His brother had died only four weeks previously.

**MANNERS**—To M. Manners, of Bridgend, who has lost his father.

**NESBIT**—To A. Nesbit, of Maidenhead, whose sister died in Ireland on November 4th.

**THOMAS**—To L. Thomas, of Rawdon, who has suffered the loss of his mother.

**WHITE**—To R. White, of King's Lynn, whose daughter, Eileen, died in a hospital in Melbourne, Australia, on July 16th. She was only 29.

**WHYTE**—To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whyte, of Gainsborough, whose baby daughter, Katherine Patricia, born on October 18th, lived only three days.

We have heard with regret that Mrs. M. E. Fourie, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, P. M. Fourie, of Pretoria, died on August 4th.

Owing to the last minute news of the Pensions increases, we regret that it has not been possible to include in the printed REVIEW the notices of the three books mentioned in last month's REVIEW. They are, however, in the Braille edition and will appear next month in the printed issue. **Ed.**

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 443—VOLUME XL

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

“LET us now praise famous men,” said the Rev. W. J. Taylor, our St. Dunstan’s padre, opening the Service to the memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., in the Chapel at Ovingdean. The Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester told the story of the founding of St. Dunstan’s by Sir Arthur Pearson forty-one years ago, in 1915. His text was “I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a Father to the poor; and the cause of him that I knew not I searched out.” *Job 29, 15, 16.* Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., President of St. Dunstan’s, read the Lesson, which consisted of well-chosen passages from the Books of Isaiah and Job, and finally we sang “Abide with Me,” the words of which we like to remember were written by the Rev. H. F. Lyte, great-grandfather of our Founder. The Lord Bishop also dedicated some stained glass windows which have added a touch of much needed colour to the beautiful chapel. In the dining room at Ovingdean, just before lunch, I added my tribute to “this man who made such a lasting impression on those of us who had had the privilege of knowing him, and who has influenced directly or indirectly the lives of all blind people of his generation and thereafter.”

So ended the celebration of our 35th Founder’s Day which, by good fortune, fell on the actual anniversary, Sunday, 9th December, just as, by coincidence, Remembrance Day itself happened to fall this year on November 11th. No one who was in the chapel could fail to be moved to grateful remembrance and thanksgiving; and I feel sure that many will have thought with special affection of Lady (Arthur) Pearson whose age prevented her from being present. An extended report of the Lord Bishop’s eloquent sermon, which included a graphic description of the windows and their meaning, is included in this number and will, I feel sure, be read by all St. Dunstaners, old and new, with great interest.

The gathering was widely representative, amongst those present being the Mayor and Mayoress of Hove, Sir Neville’s wife, Lady Pearson, his son, Mr. Nigel Pearson, with his wife, Lady Frances Pearson, the Ven. Archdeacon F. Darrell Bunt, Air Commodore and Mrs. Dacre, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Curtis-Willson, Mr. Hugh Powell, the designer of the new windows, and Mrs. Powell, Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan’s, and St. Dunstaners from both Homes, and many who live in Brighton and district. Every seat in the chapel was taken, and through the ingenuity of the Commandant, Mr. L. Fawcett, the loudspeaker system at West House, the Home for older and less mobile St. Dunstaners in another part of Brighton, was linked to microphones in the chapel so that they were able to join in the service.

We are indebted to our President, Sir Neville Pearson, for his deep concern and help in all our affairs over so many years, as well as, in particular, at this moment for his artistic guidance and judgment in the provision of the stained glass windows.





## Making a Fool of Yourself

CHARLES Temperton's letter which was mentioned in last month's REVIEW, in which he and another St. Dunstaner had a good laugh at themselves, reminded me of an experience a few weeks ago.

Frank Braithwaite and I were standing talking at a reception. People were shaking hands and making a remark or two about the weather and then passing on. It was hard for Frank and me to know the precise moment at which they left us, and so occasionally one or other of us would start a new conversation and find nobody there to reply.

Frank told me how one day he shared a room with Bob Young and they were talking about this and that; Bob Young then went out to the bathroom and Frank went on talking. When Bob came back, Frank was still talking, and Bob said "Are you talking to yourself, Frank?" The implication of this rude question was not lost upon Frank, who said "I am getting more intelligent answers to my questions than I would have got if you had been here."

All this nonsense reminds me, as it reminded Frank, of an aspect of blindness which is, I suppose, common to all of us, and has been a part of our experience from time to time ever since we lost our sight, namely, the risk of making a fool of yourself or appearing to do so, and the effect this may have upon you. I can remember when I was young and had not been blinded long, being very upset at the things I did which seemed to make me look a fool or put me at a disadvantage; talking to someone who was not there, kissing the wrong girl, or tipping the managing director of the Savoy Hotel who, incidentally, took it without a word so as to prevent my embarrassment. All these things seemed to matter very much, and had I let them weigh with me they might well have made me shy and caused me to lose confidence, but I got over it, just as Frank did. When you come to think of it, you only make a fool of yourself if you allow yourself to be self-conscious. If, on the other hand, you accept the fact that you will often do unusual things because you are blind, and that everybody else understands this just as well as you do, I have no doubt it will cease to worry you.

## Thank the British Legion

I doubt if any ex-Servicemen's society has more influence than St. Dunstan's in its own field. Certainly in getting employment for its members and helping them in various ways this is the case. But in the matter of representing the war pensioners' claims to public and government, the British Legion is supreme because of its national membership and widespread appeal. We St. Dunstaners therefore owe the British Legion a debt of gratitude and thanks which I should like to place on record.

It occurs to me that it would be courteous if St. Dunstaners who do not belong to the Legion would care to join it and go to the next meeting in their village or town and express St. Dunstan's thanks. Many St. Dunstaners already belong but many others do not. There is strength in unity and I commend the thought to every St. Dunstaner. If any St. Dunstaner does not know the name and address of his local British Legion branch, I would be pleased to find it out for him if he would write to me.

Incidentally, once the effort has been made to go out and meet a new circle of friends in the local British Legion branch or club, I am sure the St. Dunstaners will get a warm-hearted welcome.

## Christmas

Lady Fraser and I wish a Happy Christmas and a good New Year to St. Dunstaners and their families wherever they may be, all over the world.

IAN FRASER

## **"They owed him more than anyone in the world"**

A Service in memory of Sir Arthur Pearson, Founder of St. Dunstan's, and the dedication of new stained glass windows, was held on Sunday, December 9th, at the St. Dunstan's Chapel, Ovingdean. The Address and Dedication was by the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester, who dedicated the Chapel itself in 1938.

In his address, the Lord Bishop said that on December 9th, 1921, Sir Arthur Pearson, Founder of St. Dunstan's, died. It was very fitting that thirty-five years later, to the very day, we should remember him together and make the anniversary also the occasion for dedicating new stained glass windows for the enrichment of St. Dunstan's Chapel. The new windows themselves had a meaning of their own. Four of them recalled the four Gospels, with the symbols usually associated in the Christian tradition with each one. In the case of the other four windows, St. Dunstan's badge was inset in one, and in the others an anchor for the Royal Navy, an eagle for the Royal Air Force and crossed swords for the Army.

The Lord Bishop continued: "But it is not so much of the new windows but of the Founder of St. Dunstan's that I wish to speak this Sunday morning. It is Sir Arthur Pearson, the blind man who by his inspiration and marvellous achievement, transformed the lives of thousands of blind men and women all over the British Isles and far beyond then, that we salute with our grateful admiration. And while you salute him here, as a representative group of those who lost their sight in the service of their country in two world wars, there are a great number of others who are thinking of him too at this very hour. Sergeant Alan Nichols, an old St. Dunstaner, wrote: 'We cannot all be together on this date, but we shall make a date in our thoughts for 11 a.m. on the 9th December, and spend a few minutes in meditation, and with pride let us remember how we have tried, and will still try, to show the world what Sir Arthur did for us when he gave us St. Dunstan's.'"

The Lord Bishop went on: "It is a great tribute to any man that other men and women should be able to say that under God they owed him more than anyone, or relied on him more than on anyone or anything else in the world. In 1913, at the age of 47, at the height of an extremely

successful career, Sir Arthur Pearson became completely blind. The blindness had come gradually and he had prepared himself to face it. He was a man of great courage and a zest for action. He at once determined to make the cause of the blind his cause. He started with the National Institute for the Blind, and as its Treasurer devoted his energies and enthusiasm to developing its buildings, its library, its funds, its activities of every kind. But in the first months of 1915 he began to turn his main strength to the care of blinded soldiers. From the little acorn first planted grew the mighty oak which is famous as St. Dunstan's.

"In the ordinary way it is a sighted man who acts as the blind man's eyes. In Sir Arthur's case it was one who was blind himself, who was eyes to the blind. Yes. Eyes to the blind he most certainly was, but there is something in Job's description that is equally apt. Sir Arthur was eyes to the blind, he was a father to the poor, and he searched out good causes."

The Lord Bishop recalled to mind that Sir Arthur had given Captain Ian Fraser the task of building up the Settlement and After-Care Departments.

"So the work continues," concluded the Lord Bishop, "long after Sir Arthur Pearson's death; retaining and inspiring the same spirit still in all who serve St. Dunstan's."

To the family of St. Dunstan's the call also came, not only to be eyes for their brothers, but to be eyes to those many people who, while they seem to be sighted, are spiritually blind. For blind men and women, with their values right, who are determined to put to the highest use all the other abilities God has given them, can indeed often open the eyes of those who appear more fortunate than themselves, and bring them a new vision of the wonderful opportunities of service which life offers.

"Therefore, thanks be to Almighty God for the work of Sir Arthur Pearson, for his life and inspiration. Thanks be to Almighty God for the service of those who were partners with him or are partners to-day in the continuing St. Dunstan's. And with our thanks for the mercies of the past, go our prayers for the present and the future, for God's continued guidance and blessing on the whole family of St. Dunstan's, and on that grand work which finds a centre, in this place, through Jesus Christ our Lord."



## At Sir Arthur's Grave

On the morning of Saturday, December 8th, St. Dunstaners W. T. Scott, A. Carrick and R. Brett, escorted by Mr. May, went with Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, to Hampstead Cemetery where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave on behalf of St. Dunstaners all over the world. Mr. Scott also placed a wreath on behalf of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee.

## War Pensions Improvements

### New Age Allowance—Increased and Extended Comforts Allowance

In reply to our enquiry, the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance confirm that the Extended Comforts Allowance will be payable to every war pensioner whatever the type of his pension provided he is in receipt of the Unemployability Supplement or the Constant Attendance Allowance, and the increased Comforts Allowance will be payable to every war pensioner who is in receipt of the Comforts Allowance at present.

The Ministry are not yet able to tell us positively that the New Age Allowance will be payable to Officers, N.C.O.s and other ranks who have the Special or Alternative rate of pension under the First World War Royal Warrants, but promise to let us know immediately a decision has been reached. A further notice will appear in the REVIEW as soon as we have any information on this point, but if the Age Allowance is not made available to special or alternative pensioners who are 65 or over they will have the opportunity of reverting to the standard rate of pension with the Age Allowance if it is to their advantage.

H. D. RICE.

## Men's Supplies Section

### Welfare Department

Correspondence with Headquarters concerning items supplied and services rendered by the above should in future be addressed to Mr. H. Christopher.

## Brighton Club Notes

Will all those who wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson tournament games kindly let me have their names not later than January 7th, 1957.

FRANK A. RHODES.

## Speech Recording

An experimental speech-recording service on tape has been started by the R.N.I.B. in conjunction with St. Dunstan's, intended chiefly for work and study purposes. A few recordings on Physiotherapy, Law, etc., have already been made.

If you think such a service might be useful to you, the organisers need to know *now*:

1. For what purpose and subjects you require it.
2. Whether or not you own a tape-recorder.
3. If so, full details of your machine (i.e. type, make, playing speeds, maximum reel size, etc.).

Please reply *now* to Students' Library, The Royal National Institute for the Blind, 204 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

## Petrol Rationing and Disabled

In the House of Commons on December 3rd, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Minister of Fuel and Power if he would give specially sympathetic consideration as regards petrol rationing to persons who use motor vehicles on account of severe disabilities.

The Minister (Mr. Aubrey Jones) replied: "Yes, sir. My regional Petroleum Officers have been so instructed."

## The Joys of the Gardener

*I'm a plain spoken fellow, I say what I think,  
A spade is a back-ache to me;  
I dig and I dig, I put in the seeds,  
The crop that I get are nearly all weeds.  
When weeding the peas I am down on my knees,  
The onions bring tears to my eyes,  
The sparrows and crows, they sit out in rows  
Watching each move that I make.  
Then something hits me with a nasty clout,  
I have stepped on the head of the rake,  
I have built up a scare, it's like me to a hair,  
Now there's nothing so funny about that.  
Just to show what they think of my brainy idea,  
The sparrows just sit in the hat.  
The sun it shines bright, not a rain cloud in sight,  
And I could do with a nice cup of tea,  
Then I think of the plants, they look very dry,  
They must have a thirst like me.  
So out with the can, up and down to the tap,  
I water everything that's in sight.  
When all that is done I call it a day  
And it rains cats and dogs all the night.  
Garden work is alright, it's a job to be done,  
And if it's done right, you will have lots of fun  
But you'll still have the crimp in your back.*

BILLY BELL, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## London Club Notes

To all St. Dunstaners and their families, wherever they may be, a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. God bless you all.

S.H.W.

### Bridge

The 21st Annual General Meeting of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club was held at Headquarters on Saturday, December 8th. The Chair was taken by Lieut. Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M.

A message of good wishes was read to the meeting from Drummer Downs, at Ovingdean, and the Acting Captain, Mr. Jock Brown, presented a full report of the Club's activities throughout the year; this was followed by a report from the Treasurer, Mr. S. Webster.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

*Captain-Secretary*: G. P. Brown.

*Treasurer*: S. Webster.

*Committee*: N. Downs, J. Fleming, H. Gover.

The thanks of the meeting were expressed to Mr. Bob Willis, and to Mrs. Willis and her helpers in the Catering Department, for the willing help they give to make the bridge meetings so enjoyable.

Our London Business Houses team has now played five matches. Of these they have won three, drawn one and lost one.

Two members of the L.B.H. team, P. Nuyens and F. Winter, are also representing St. Dunstan's in the Open Pairs Competition and have qualified for the Semi-Final.

### Indoor Section

On Saturday, October 13th, a gay and merry party left the Club by coach for a trip to the Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking, the residence of the Rev. and Mrs. Spurway.

When we arrived we were met with refreshments after the journey and then the party proceeded to various games, among which was included a game of bowls on the lawn. Later we were escorted to tea in the Vicarage, where a full and bounteous spread was provided.

In the evening we paid a visit to the local club, where we fraternised with the local folks, including the Vicar and some of his helpers. All good things come to an end and after a nice evening we proceeded homewards, our journey being much enlivened by the musical section of the boys.

With mouth organ, squeeze box and guitar we had quite a band and the vocal section did full justice to it. Indeed a very good outing enjoyed by one and all.

The results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Indoor Competitions for 1956 are as follows:

*Cribbage*—Winner, G. P. Brown; Runner-up, W. Bishop.

*Dominoes*—Winner, G. P. Brown; Runner-up, C. Williamson.

*Darts (T.B.)*—Winner, C. Williamson; Runner-up, W. Lacey.

*Darts (S.S.)*—Winner, P. Ashton; Runner-up, J. Fleming.

*Whist (Aggregate)*—Winner, G. P. Brown. The CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Club on Tuesday, 8th January, at 6.45 p.m.

C. J. WALKER.

### Walking

#### 6 Miles v. Metropolitan Police

It was almost like old times when St. Dunstan's held their annual 6 miles race against the Metropolitan Police at Regent's Park, on Saturday, November 17th, for not only did St. Dunstan's turn out an almost full team, but the Police turned out in force. In all, we had well over twenty men out.

Beaten when we last met, St. Dunstan's boys were certainly out for revenge, and all walked pretty well up to standard and jointly earned their reward. Stan Tutton and Alf Bradley in particular walked extremely well; it was really their good mid-field support that gave us our victory. Little wonder that they were both placed in the handicap. Congratulations to them both, and also to Archie Brown, who also took a handicap prize.

W. MILLER.

#### St. Dunstan's Six Mile Handicap Walk and St. Dunstan's v. Metropolitan Police Match

		<i>Act. Time</i>	<i>H'cp. All.</i>	<i>H'cp. Time in H'p</i>	<i>Posn.</i>
1. P.C.					
McGreechan	M.P.	54.10			
2. W. Miller	St.D.	54.24	Scr.	54.24	5
3. A. Brown	St.D.	55.54	2.55	52.59	3
4. C. Williamson	St.D.	56.26	2.40	53.46	4
5. P.C. Place	M.P.	56.49			
6. A. Bradley	St.D.	57.17	4.25	52.52	2
7. S. Tutton	St.D.	58.25	6.00	52.25	1
8. P.C. Youlden	M.P.	58.30			
9. P.C. Ritchie	M.P.	58.41			
10. L. Dennis	St.D.	58.41	3.40	55.01	7
11. P.C. Bonniface	M.P.	60.10			
12. P.C. Rowe	M.P.	60.20			
13. P.C. Lightwing	M.P.	61.08			
14. C. Stafford	St.D.	61.15	6.35	54.40	6
15. P.C. Young	M.P.	61.15			
16. P.C. Collins	M.P.	61.15			

Match Result—1st, St. Dunstan's, 46 points.

2nd, Metropolitan Police, 59 points.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I have read Mr. Oxborough's letter with interest and although I agree with him more or less, I cannot accept one word. "Oxo," old friend, don't you know that you must never use the word "foolhardy" in connection with the actions of any St. Dunstaners. It isn't done, old boy. "Unwise," yes; "foolhardy," no. It simply is not done, "Oxo," old boy. You have dropped a clanger.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. HAMILTON, *Thetford*.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was slightly interested and a little intrigued upon reading the letters of Messrs. Oxborough and Pollitt with their direct reference to myself. The former says that I contradicted myself in that I claimed independence and acknowledged my dependence upon my dog. I certainly did *not* claim independence in the first place, but merely independence from reliance upon a sighted human escort, and I think I stressed the monotony of long walks without human companionship. I agree most heartily with him that it is better to be safe than sorry, but the subject was "mobility," and one is better off physically and mentally if one can get around when nobody is available.

Mr. Pollitt, on the other hand, emphasises the personal note and if it is true of writing letters or even a book on blindness then he should rebuke Sir Ian for his personal references in the REVIEW, and for having wasted his time writing "Whereas I Was Blind," which I am sure, like Sir Arthur Pearson's "Victory over Blindness," has stimulated others to efficient achievement. Probably one might prefer to be a fish when one considers the limitless mobility of that equally wonderful accumulation of atoms.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary*.

DEAR EDITOR,

First may I add my tribute to those already paid to George Ellis, and endorse the comments of my fellow St. Dunstaners. The columns of the REVIEW will be the poorer for his passing.

Mr. Pollitt's letter was, I thought, most interesting, good, sound constructive criticism, and certainly a point of view which has my support.

Mr. Oxborough's letter puzzles me. Surely this is not meant to be serious, particularly as it comes from an old St. Dunstaner. According to Mr. Oxborough, I have been foolhardy for over thirty-five years, and I still go it alone. To have an escort is no guarantee that we will be immune from the risk of accident. I should also like to remind our old friend that Sir Arthur was often to be found walking around alone in the old days.

Yours sincerely,

H. V. KERR, *Harrow*.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like, through the REVIEW, to thank the Chairman, Sir Ian, for the fine work he has been doing in Parliament for the benefit of all disabled men and dependants.

Yours sincerely,

P. GARRITY, *Patcham*.

DEAR EDITOR,

It is now so long ago since any Talking Book Library notes appeared in the REVIEW that, like myself, many possessors of talking book machines must be wondering whether the popular and very helpful "Nelson's Column" is merely in abeyance or has ceased altogether. Perhaps the last few months have produced nothing worth writing about in the way of new books! Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that we are not going to be deprived of what, in my opinion, is one of the most useful and interesting features in the REVIEW.

The extent to which Nelson's reviews can put one on to a good book was brought home to me recently when I listened to "So Well Remembered," by James Hilton, and read with splendid characterisation by Stephen Jack. The synopsis of this book given in the Talking Book Library's catalogue is so watered down as to be totally inadequate as a guide to the book's merit. Thanks to Nelson, I enjoyed a rattling good yarn, which would never have been on my list had the synopsis in the catalogue been my sole guide.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES S. HODGSON, *Fotheringhay*.

[Nelson is almost back on his column. See p. 11.]

## The Conquest of Disability

Sir Brunel Cohen, K.B.E., a member of St. Dunstan's Council and one of the founders of the British Legion, who holds No. 5 badge and was its Treasurer for its first twenty-five years, recently published his Autobiography under the title "Count Your Blessings." In it he tells of his long Army service, first with the Volunteers, and continuing with the Territorial Army when it was formed in 1908. The war came and as a result of the wounds he received at Ypres he had both legs amputated. This could have proved a shattering blow. Instead, Sir Brunel turned his attention to what was to be a lifetime of public service. He was a Member of Parliament for thirteen years and he has been the moving spirit in many important organisations, besides his work for the British Legion and St. Dunstan's. His services were recognised by a knighthood in 1942.

Sir Brunel's outlook on life is summed up in these words:—

"I am proud of my war wounds and never minded who knew about them. I have met people similarly disabled who seemed shy and diffident, and rather wanted to hide themselves for fear of being accused of flaunting their disability in the public eye. Perhaps I should have thought like that, too; in fact, I never did, and that has made the whole difference to my life."

★ ★ ★

Another book which has appeared recently is "The Conquest of Disability," which has been edited by Sir Ian Fraser. In this book, the first of its kind, men and women from many walks of life describe in intimate detail the various ways in which they have conquered, as far as humanly possible, the grave physical disabilities from which they suffer. Some of the contributors are already well-known personalities; many are ordinary men and women. All have remarkable stories to tell of disabilities met and conquered. Sir Ian, in his Preface, writes that after reading their stories, and from his own experience, he had come to these conclusions:—

"You must concentrate on the things you can do and enjoy them, and forget the things you cannot do. You must be infinitely adaptable and strongly curious. If there is something you very much want to do which seems impossible, you

must not give up until you have tried all sorts of direct and indirect ways. If, eventually, you come to the conclusion that it is impossible or so difficult as not to be worthwhile, forget about it and substitute something else. Ordinary men and women are infinitely kind and tolerant and want to be helpful, but often you must make the first move to enable their help to bear fruit to the great pleasure of both. . . . I am thankful that in this enlightened age, so many are able to lead useful and contented lives, and if this book helps but a few others, those of us who have had the making of it will rejoice."

## A History of the British Legion

Mr. Graham Wootton's book, "The Official History of the British Legion," is based on the official records of the Legion and in it Mr. Wootton traces the development of the Legion from its first days, when the various bodies representing ex-Servicemen were fused into one body. The effort of the British Legion to improve international relations with Germany in the inter-war period, and the association of the Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales, with the Legion in the years following the First World War, are perhaps of special interest. It is interesting to find that as long ago as 1941 the Legion's case for independent appeal tribunals was, to quote the author, "being forcibly argued in the House of Commons by Sir Ian Fraser." The necessary legislation was passed two years later. That year (1943) was one of the most successful in the Legion's history. It was the year when equality in the basic rate of pension as between men for the two wars was achieved, and, above all, it was the year when, for the first time in the history of war pensions in this country, the onus of proof was placed on the State and no longer on the claimant.

The Legion's history is a great human story and many, Legionaries and others, will, as Sir Ian says in his Foreword, find much in this book by way of inspiration and example.

"Count Your Blessings," Sir Brunel Cohen, K.B.E., *Heinemann*, 15s.

"Conquest of Disability," Edited by Sir Ian Fraser, *Odhams Press, Ltd.*, 15s.

"The Official History of the British Legion," Graham Wootton, *Macdonald and Evans, Ltd.*, 25s.



## Bridge Congress

The 7th Annual Bridge Congress was held at Ovingdean during the week-end, November 16th to 18th. There was a good attendance and we were pleased to welcome C. Stock, of Southampton, as a new player. We would like to congratulate all prize-winners who were:—

### Teams of Four (Sir Arthur Pearson Cup):

1st	F. Winter	J. Walch	
	C. Thompson	C. Kelk	+ 3670
2nd	F. Rhodes	F. Matthewman	
	E. Carpenter	A. Caldwell	+ 1780
3rd	P. Nuyens	F. Kirkbright	
	H. Gover	J. Simmons	+ 1270

### Pairs Championship

1st	G. P. Brown	2nd	H. Gover
	J. Fleming		P. Nuyens
3rd	W. Bishop		
	G. Jolly.		

### Bridge Drive (Sunday morning)

1st	T. Roden	2nd	C. Kelk
	J. Owen		J. Walch
3rd	F. Kirkbright	Parity	R. Armstrong
	J. Simons		H. Crabtree

### Bridge Drive (Sunday afternoon)

1st	A. Wiltshire	2nd	H. Gover
	L. Douglas		P. Nuyens
3rd	F. Kirkbright	Parity	C. Kelk
	J. Simmons		J. Walch

### Special Prizes were won by:

Mrs. Formstone	J. Smith	R. Wylie
Miss Simon	S. Webster	R. Giffard

The week-end was a great success and this was mainly due to our old friends, Alf Field and Cyril Stokes, who acted as M.C.s.

Commandant opened the Congress on Saturday morning and Matron very kindly presented the prizes on Sunday afternoon, after which "Drummer" thanked Matron, Commandant and Staff and all who had helped during the week-end.

### DRUMMER DOWNS.

### What Drummer Did Not Say

Mr. A. E. Field writes: "The Commandant, in opening the Congress, said: "We have with us a chap who has just negotiated a very sticky contract" (Drummer).

When Drummer presented the bouquet to Matron and said his few direct words, the lads spontaneously hit the roof with "He's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. Field thinks bridge players all over the country will be interested in the following two hands which were played during the Congress.

### Board 3

#### Sir Arthur Pearson Cup—Pairs

Dealer South

E.W. Vulnerable

S.	J	5	2	
H.	K	J	10	2
D.	A	Q	8	
C.	9	8	4	

S.	K	10	7	4
H.	A	Q	7	3
D.	10	7		
C.	A	K	J	
S.	A	Q	8	
H.	9	6	4	
D.	J	9	5	4
C.	Q	5	3	

The score slips show that E.W. made one and two Hearts and also one Spade, but also N.S. bid and made one Heart. Can this be done on 9 Spades lead?

### Board 10

#### Final of Sir Arthur Pearson Cup

Pairs Championship

Dealer N.

N.S. Vulnerable

S.	A	2				
H.	A	K	Q	10	3	2
D.	7	3				
C.	A	10	8			

S.	J	9	7	6	<div></div>	S.	Q	4	3	
H.	9	5				H.	J	7	6	4
D.	5	4				D.	10	9	6	
C.	Q	9	6	5		4	C.	K	J	7
	S.	K	10	8	5					
	H.	8								
	D.	A	K	Q	J	8	2			
	C.	3	2							

The makeable contract is 7 Diamonds—nobody reached that, however.

Try bidding this with your favourite partner.

Paul Nuyens and Charles Gover reached 7 NT doubled and redoubled and made it, but it should, I think, be defeated.

A.E.F.

## Great-Grandfather

A. W. Blaker, of Lancing.

## Grandfathers

H. Marsden, Alderholt, near Fordingbridge; A. W. Lincoln, Hightown, Liverpool (a grandfather for the fourth time—and all boys; W. Thomas, of Wakefield (his twelfth grandchild).

## "We Had to Laugh"

Here is the first selection of St. Dunstaners' stories which were invited last month. The sender of each receives 10s. 6d.

★ ★ ★

It might have happened in either Princes Street, Edinburgh, or in the Leith Walk, had we been in Scotland, or in the "Land of Green Ginger" had we been in Hull, or in Union Street, Plymouth—but it didn't. It happened in Rottingdean. It was like this.

One fine Sunday morning, Jimmie Reed and myself had elected to go and do the rounds of Rottingdean, just to see if the duck-pond was behaving itself, etc.

It was a very satisfactory tour and we had, at about 12.30, decided to return to St. Dunstan's. We stepped carefully out of the doors of the "Victoria" and aligned our two selves on the edge of the pavement with a view to crossing when the traffic was clear. At that instant a saloon car slowed to a stop opposite us, the door was opened and a voice invited us to jump in "if we were going to St. Dunstan's." We were and we did. The car glided away. Enjoying the luxury of a chauffeur-driven arrival at the portico of St. Dunstan's, we fell to musing as to who was our Good Samaritan. Jimmie whispered hoarsely to me "Who is it?" and I replied, equally hoarsely, that I did not know.

We duly slowed to a halt, the door was opened and we descended, me first and then Jimmie, who turned to the driver and thanked him most profusely for such a kindly act. The driver shut him up by saying "Shut up, you blinking fool, it's me, Alf, the driver of the St. Dunstan's bus!" Whereupon we all burst into spontaneous laughter at being literally "taken for a ride."

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON,  
*Cliftonville.*

It was during the era when many St. Dunstaners wore spats, and I was teaching at West House. I was getting ready to go out one Saturday afternoon, and had just finished buttoning up one of my spats when a pupil came to see me on "a private matter," after which we continued to talk until, consulting my watch, I exclaimed "Good lord, look at the time. My escort

will think I am never coming." Grabbing my hat and stick I hurried downstairs to be met with a frigid "So you have come?" After diplomatic relations had been re-established, we strolled along the front to the Palace Pier, across to the Old Steine, through Castle Square and along the Western Road to my escort's home. Seated on a comfortable chair, with one leg tucked under the seat and the other stretched out, I was talking to the daughter of the house when she remarked, "I like your socks, Mr. Rogers." I was just beginning to feel pleased when suddenly the thought struck me—but she ought not to be able to see my socks! An examination of my ankles completed the *coup de grace*. To my horror and humiliation, I discovered I had walked from West House to West Hove with one ankle enclosed and one exposed.

P.S.—I often wonder whether the natives attributed my strange appearance to poverty or eccentricity.

T. ROGERS, *Huddersfield.*

I am one of our deaf St. Dunstaners. I was sitting in the Lounge one day when a young lady came to me and said "Will you tell my friend your poems?" I said yes, so her friend came and I went through half a dozen. When I had finished I thought she said "You are very silly." I said "Thank you." Her friend then came back and asked how she liked them. I said she did not like them at all, she said I was very silly. She went away and came back with her friend. They could not speak on my hand for laughing. At the finish she said "Mr. Bell, I am very sorry, but I did not say you were very silly. I said you were versatile." It was my fault I could not take it in, and I said "I still say 'thank you.'"

BILLY BELL, *Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

I was a member of a College four. One tea-time we decided to have an extra practice, as we had a race pending with a crack Bungalow team. We all met at the workshops and the late Billy Pratt suggested a smoke and handed one round. Only one match was struck. "Who will be third?" said Billy. I bent forward and accepted the light. "Unlucky for you, Yates," he remarked. Not being superstitious I made no comment. Minutes later we were on the landing stage waiting. "Here we are," a voice bellowed. Peering down with the small vision I then had I presumed the boat



to be at my feet. "In first," I cried, bending low and stepping down. Alas! there was no boat. I was completely submerged and my feet in the mud for several seconds. Kicking myself free, I grabbed the side and, aided by a score of hands, I was soon on terra firma, minus hat. I hastened back to the College, with gallons of lake water, coupled with rain. Entering the College, I crashed into the kindly porter, Mr. Lomas, who was so startled that he could not jump clear. He gurgled something. "It's the second Flood," I quoted, and dashed forward upstairs to No. 8 and commenced piling my clothes on the floor. The door opened. "Ha, ha," exclaimed an orderly, "I thought someone had been using a watering can, so followed the trail." In a few seconds there was an army of people. Sam Cotton, our orderly, also followed the trail and, seeing my plight, soon gently ushered that mighty throng away and peace was restored. It took all the boatmen, much time and patience to lower me into the boat after that incident. Never again have I adventured to be third man.

ALLAN YATES, *Southwick*.

Braille was never my strong point, but a few years ago I entered for the Braille Reading Contest at Manchester, in the Novices' Class. I read once before the examiner, then later had to read again and so did another young woman in the same class. When the results were announced, this young woman came third, so it stood to reason that I had come fourth. Feeling rather proud of my achievement, I returned home to tell the news.

But was my face red when the official results came through the post. Only four people had entered for my particular class! I was at the bottom.

MARGARET STANWAY, *Morecambe*.

We live in the country; up a lane, off the main road. Far from the madding crowd. My wife takes our boy to school each morning and fetches him back in the afternoon. The other afternoon, as my wife was leaving to meet the boy, she said "Whilst I am out the travelling shop may call. I don't want anything this week, but ask him to bring a pair of fur-lined boots next week, size 4. Tell him I want good fur lining, as good as this," and she thrust an old fur-lined boot into my hand with a

seam-rent toe. I said "Right," and placed the boot where I could put my hand on it. I was typing when I heard a motor pull up with a screech of brakes. I picked up the boot and proceeded down the path to the gate. As I neared the gate I heard two men get out of the cab, so I said "Mrs. Hamilton does not want anything this week, but she wants you to bring her next week a pair of fur-lined boots, size 4, and it has to be good lining, like this," and I thrust the boot forward. Neither man took it and I could feel them looking at each other, so I said "You are the travelling shop, aren't you?" "No," replied one of the men, "We are the dustmen."

B. A. HAMILTON, *Thetford*.

This story concerns my friend, Arthur Cavanagh, one of our handless men. I have spoken with him and he agrees to my suggestion that we send it to the REVIEW.

Some years ago Arthur was in the White Horse, Rottingdean, having gone there with an escort for a quiet drink. Not feeling quite up to the mark, he asked his escort to get him some aspirins, or Aspros. At that time you could get things from slot machines fitted in the establishment. It was not until Arthur had taken the tablets that it was discovered a mistake had been made. His escort had inadvertently made the purchase from a machine dispensing cascara tablets. Of course, the matter did not end there, but the story does.

H. POLLITT, *Farnworth*.

P.S.—If this story is published, please send the half-guinea to Arthur.

Last year in June, at Ovingdean, Freddie Wareham and I, wishing to get our weight down, decided to walk to Brighton. It was a very blustering day and, escorted by Freddie's wife and sister-in-law, we started off. By jove! how those ladies could walk! They started off at a gallop and when we had done about two miles we had to find some excuse without showing cowardly to call a halt. "Toilets" was the answer, but alas, being a wet and windy day there was no one about whom we could ask. However, one of the ladies thought she saw one and took us across to investigate. She ran down the steps like a female Roger Bannister, then came back and told us to go down the steps, the door was at the bottom right, but we would have to find our way back. After finding the place I

heard Freddie trying to find the door to get out. "Where's the door?" says he, but before I could answer the door opened and I heard a voice say "One moment, I'll help you." Freddie was put outside. Then the same voice came over my shoulder. In sorrowful but firm tones it said "Didn't you realise that poor chap is blind? There are a good few more three miles from here. People are so soon to forget, but there has recently been a war on and that poor chap lost his sight for the likes of you and me. So please remember that in future!" I replied "Sorry, old man, it was remiss of me, but I didn't stop to think." Then I made for the door, but like Freddie I could not find it. "Where the hell is this ruddy door?" I cried. He found it for me with profound apologies and I left him laughing heartily.

E. H. NORTH, *Taunton*.

### Family News

Mary Loveridge (North Harrow) has been successful in passing her examinations and is now an S.R.N. She is staying on at the Kent and Sussex Hospital to gain experience as a Staff Nurse.

Brian Montgomery, Slinfold, has recently passed his Chief Petty Officer examination, with three months' advancement. He is 21 and an Ordnance Artificer, Royal Navy.

Sylvia Morgan (Bristol), after passing the G.C.E. in four subjects, has entered the Civil Service.

Our sympathy is sent to Mrs. W. Sherwood (Ipswich), who has lost her mother, who lived with them.

Sympathy also goes to Mrs. A. V. Law (Pensax-Stockton) in the loss of a sister and brother within a month, and to Mrs. W. H. Hill (Tolladine) whose mother has died.

### Sons' and Daughters' Marriages

Eva Chandler (Richmond, Yorkshire) on November 17th. Unfortunately, our St. Dunstaner was seriously ill in hospital at the time and, to Eva's deep disappointment, was not able to be with her.

Anne Walsh, of Cork, on September 8th, to Kevin Dunne, and Kathleen Walsh, of Cork, to Noel Casey, on November 17th. They are the daughters of our late St. Dunstaner, P. Walsh.

On November 17th, Brian Arberry Montgomery (Slinfold), to Maureen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Penrose, of Hull.

### Talking Book Library

The Editor has intimated to me that some readers, if not actually missing this column in recent months, are wondering whether or no the column has died for good and all.

The time seems to have come when I must try to give some kind of explanation to those readers who have found this column useful in their selection of reading and to assure them that I shall do my very best to continue the tiny service. The explanation involves a short sketch of "from printed book to Talking Book Library" as I see it, so please bear with this short spasm of sobstuff.

Our own recording studio records all the books and the present rate of recording is higher than ever before—from the master recording of each page, a processing company makes a sample pressing which comes to me for reading. I report on each record and when a book is satisfactorily completed, that book is ordered from the company to be delivered to the Library in properly finished records.

From that you will see the books released for the Library are those delivered by the company to the Library itself, hence, no deliveries—no releases—no Nelson.

I learn from my chief at the recording studio that the present trickle of reading coming through to me ought in reality to be a steady flood and he warns me to expect complete submersion when the processers pull the stops out. This hold-up has been and still is a considerable headache to him but with the Christmas rush behind them, we hope that there will soon be a steady flow again. As there are already between fifty and seventy-five books finished and ordered, you will see that my position is likely to become increasingly tricky when the avalanche of releases starts. However, I'll do my best.

"NELSON."

### Gardeners

E. G. West, of Egham, Surrey, at the Chrysanthemum Show of the Staines "Lino" Horticultural Society gained a First Prize and a Third Prize in two classes for his blooms.

★ ★ ★

J. Wood, of Grange-over-Sands, gained two firsts, a second, and three third prizes and a special award at the local flower show in November.



### Australian Letter

In a letter to Sir Ian, A. F. McConnell, of Sandringham, Victoria, tells us that at the Olympic Games, in Melbourne, two of his four sons were appointed officials for the Games. All the boys are athletes and we understand that this particular two just missed selection as competitors but, in their own words, "were appointed officials as the next best thing."

The Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Bowling Club have been enjoying a grand season, in the course of which they have visited twenty-five, and covered hundreds of miles. Mr. McConnell is Chairman of the Club, Mr. Joe Lynch is Deputy Chairman, Messrs. C. Daw and T. Melbourne are members of the Committee, and the members are Messrs. Gabe Aarons, Bert Aldersley, Bob Archer, Ted Bell, Bill Bushby, Bill Clifton, Tom Corboy, Lionel Cropley, Eric Drew, Lal Gibson, E. "Ted" Glew, Bill Gray, Fred Kilby, Hodge Power E. "Ted" Ransome, V. (Jack) Urquhart, George Watson and H. (Snow) Williams. Mr. Les Hoult is Manager.

### Other Bowling News

Over here, Joe Baxter, of Ashted, a St. Dunstaner with very slight sight, has just received two awards at the annual general meeting of his Bowling Club. One was the novices' award, when he beat a sighted opponent by 23 to 2; the other was "the St. Dunstan's prize" for which the Club holds a competition each year. In this event he beat the captain, who is also sighted.

Congratulations, Joe, and also to you, Mrs. Baxter, on winning the silver spoon.

### Summer Dies

*The sun, its radiance will rest,  
And fail to climb with former zest,  
And guests on wing their parting grieve,  
For Nature bids so they must leave.  
Now cuckoos flown to warmer clime  
With brood on wing o'er land and brine,  
And swallows, swifts and martins, too,  
Have made for harbours' rendezvous.  
The golden ears their grain hath shed  
No more to rest on poppies' head,  
And vibrating wings their rest will take,  
In hollow tree on honey cake.  
The rose her sheen and petals fade,  
And night encroaches evening shade,  
The pines on needle bed do sigh  
In sad refrain, for summer dies.*

RONALD SMITH, Seaford.

### Liverpool Club Notes

On Saturday, November 3rd, we paid a visit to our friends of the Darts Club at the Railway Hotel at Pleasington, near Blackburn. The afternoon turned out fine and, arriving a little early, some of the party took the opportunity of a stroll down the country lanes before tea; judging from the greenery some carried back with them I imagine they were looking for Christmas decorations.

Our hosts gave us a true Lancashire welcome and a sumptuous tea, to which everybody did justice.

Tables being cleared, the two darts teams proceeded to do their worst, but the games worked out about even, the match of the evening being a match between Maureen Lees and Bob Britton; although Bob was 100 behind, he managed to pull up and beat his fair opponent.

Dominos were played in the "Snug," and in the front parlour the "St. Dunstan's Ladies Choir" was heard in full chorus.

After a very happy evening we were loath to leave, but assured our hosts and Mr. Hindle that we would see them again at Christmas, at our Club.

On December 1st the Club held its Annual Christmas Party, which this year was served in the Board Room of the British Legion, Leece Street; this room has seen many notable gatherings.

Among the guests were Miss B. Vaughan Davies, Miss Everett and Miss Madison, our good friends from the Railway Hotel, Pleasington; our St. Dunstaner, Bob Britton, and his charming wife, and Mr. Hindle were with them. After tea and the toasts and speeches were over, we adjourned to Sefton Hall for a grand concert, given by Mr. Lamb and his colleagues. A sad note was the reference to the late Mr. Joe Reason, the pioneer of these concerts, who passed away only a short time ago. After the concert the floor was cleared for dancing, and we have to thank Mr. Edwin Owens for his excellent work at the piano. He really kept the dancers on their toes. After "Auld Lang Syne" the party broke up.

JOSEPH BLAKELY.

### Golden Wedding

Warm congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hines, of Birmingham, who on Christmas Day celebrate their Golden Wedding.

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kerr, of Widnes, December 12th. Congratulations.

## St. Dunstan's Badge

I spent just over a month in the autumn in the United States, flying both ways, and while there travelled about 3,500 miles by car, train, sea and air, and visited Niagara Falls, Ontario, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Buffalo City and New York.

While sightseeing at the top of the 525-foot Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., a gentleman said to me "I am delighted to see the badge of St. Dunstan's in this fine city. I was always keenly interested in the work of this fine organisation, and it is very gratifying to see you here." I was very proud of the fact that he had recognised my badge, and said so; he said he had lived in Hayes, Middlesex, and was now resident in the United States.

On Broadway, New York, I met a blind beggar, playing a violin in the gutter and being led by an Alsatian guide-dog. Can such a thing occur in this country, I wonder?

I was staying in Pittsburgh when the Presidential Elections took place and was taken to view a polling booth and examine the machine the Americans use for voting, this being quite a different method entirely to the card vote used in this country.

C. V. L. MONTGOMERY, *Slinfold*.

## News from Tasmania

In a letter from Captain Frank Marriott (Uncle Marriott) to the Chairman, he says:

"I find that as the years go by, one does like to be remembered, especially by old friends, and my memory takes me back to the first day you visited me in hospital, in London, in March, 1917, and also to many other happy associations at St. Dunstan's.

"My son, Fred, who, as you know, is Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the State Parliament, is also President of the Tasmanian Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association, and has been chosen to represent Tasmania at an Empire Parliamentary Conference in South Africa next year."

Captain Marriott writes from Tasmania, where he was for many years Member of Parliament, leader of ex-Servicemen's movements, and Commissioner of the Boy Scouts' Association.

## Manchester Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Red Cross House, Pendleton, on the 11th January, 1957. J. SHAW, *Secretary*.

## The Rest of the News

T. Taylor, of Farington, is still in demand as a speaker. Recently he spoke at a meeting near Southport on St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

A. Abram, of Reddish, and Mrs. Abram, are founder members of Reddish "Good Companions" Club, which has recently celebrated its first birthday. It has a membership of two hundred over 60's and a waiting list! Our St. Dunstaner and his wife are also members of a concert party.

★ ★ ★

E. Alexander, of Parkstone, Dorset, gained a Certificate for a baritone solo in the important Bournemouth Music Festival.

★ ★ ★

H. Bridgman, of Allenton, Derbyshire, has again been elected to the Committee of the local British Legion and attended the Area Conference.

★ ★ ★

There was a wonderful surprise recently for R. Popple and his wife of Llandebie, when their son rang his mother from Hong Kong on her birthday.

★ ★ ★

Our St. Dunstaner, W. J. Edmonds, and Mrs. Edmonds, who have an inn at South Witham, sent a cheque for £55 10s. to St. Dunstan's which was half the proceeds of a harvest festival auction sale held on their premises on October 21st. The other half went to the Leicestershire and Rutland Institution for the Blind.

★ ★ ★

Another St. Dunstaner, W. Watford, of Cudham, near Sevenoaks, with Mrs. Watford, recently held a whist drive, also in aid of St. Dunstan's, which raised £32. Mr. Watford said that the response was remarkable. A hall was lent free of charge, many local ladies made and provided refreshments, and the only expense was 3s. 6d. for the purchase of raffle tickets.

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to A. F. Naumann, of Bramley, Surrey, whose whippet, Palmers Cross, Silver Spell, became a full champion at Birmingham Championship Show. This brindle bitch has throughout her career been handled by Mrs. A. Naumann, a former St. Dunstan's Matron. Silver Spell was home-bred.



## “ In Memory ”

Private John Robert Lynch, B.E.M., 13th Devonshire Regt.

With deep regret we record the death of J. R. Lynch, of Ruislip. He was 59.

Jack Lynch came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1920, and trained as a telephonist. He became one of the first Shell-Mex telephonists and for thirty-one years he continued at his work. He received the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours, 1946, for "Services rendered in the Petroleum industry". In 1951 failing health forced him to give up and on December 5th he was admitted to hospital, where he died on December 8th. He will be remembered by many early St. Dunstaners and particularly by the St. Dunstan's Singers, of which he was a member for some fourteen years.

He leaves a widow and one married daughter, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Sapper Thomas Dixon Stamper, 227th Field Royal Engineers

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on November 30th, of T. D. Stamper, of Addlestone, Surrey, at the age of 80.

Coming to St. Dunstan's in July, 1916, he trained as a mat-maker and poultry-farmer. For some time he carried on poultry farming, but later did wool rugs. He had been in failing health for some time, as had Mrs. Stamper, but in spite of failing health, she had continued to care for her husband.

On the night of November 30th he died suddenly. Mrs. Stamper, who was 73, went to her neighbour's house just after midnight, but she had a stroke and died the same day without recovering consciousness.

There are four step-children who were to him like his own, and to them our deep sympathy is sent in their double bereavement.

Corporal William Edwards, 33rd Battalion, Australian Forces

We have heard with deep regret of the death of W. Edwards, of Sydney, Australia.

Although he did not actually train in England, in 1953 he came to this country and we met him and Mrs. Edwards, when he was here to spend a holiday in his beloved Scotland. Mrs. Edwards says that always, and particularly in the last year of his life, his thoughts were always there, although he knew that he could not live there because of the climate.

He died in the Military Hospital, Concord, Sydney, on July 9th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Edwards, who has herself been ill.

### Birth

HIGGINS.—On December 10th, to the wife of T. Higgins, of Hazelbury Plucknett, near Crewkerne, Somerset, a daughter

### Marriage

WALTERS—BULLAS.—On July 24th, at Brighton, Collis Walters, now of Colindale, to Sheila Marvis Bullas. Mrs. Walters had been a member of the staff at Ovingdean.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

COLVILLE.—To H. Colville, of Berkhamsted, whose brother died very suddenly ten days after they had all enjoyed a holiday together. He was married to Mrs. Colville's sister.

THOMPSON.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, of Parkstone, Dorset, whose little grandson, aged 2½, died on November 21st.

McCARTHY.—To Mr. and Mrs. D. McCarthy, of Fordingbridge, whose eldest son, Daniel Thomas, died on September 23rd in a London hospital after several months' illness. He was 35.

★ ★ ★

### Greetings from Brighton

Commandant and Matron at Ovingdean and Matron at West House send greetings to all St. Dunstaners for a very happy Christmas and New Year.

★ ★ ★

“ Pop ” Humphries sends us a Christmas message in the following lines:—

*Awake, old soldiers, The morn is high,  
A great day's awaiting You and I.  
For on this day A child was born  
To guide us on our way.  
And in our darkness We can see  
The fairy lights upon the tree.  
My simple wish I send,  
A Merry Christmas  
And God bless you to the end.*

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

A ST. DUNSTANER wrote to me the other day from England or Scotland or Ireland or Wales, or it might have been Canada, Australia, South Africa, or New Zealand—I do not intend to say which—and a summary of what he said was this:—

“I have now retired after working for thirty-five years. I used to go to work every day and arrived on time, and I took a lot of trouble to be spick and span, but now I have no reason to bother and I am tempted to take it easy and let things go. What do you think about this?”

I understand the feeling; that is just how I feel when I go on a holiday and the discipline of the daily routine is relaxed and I am tempted to let things go. It is an awful bother shaving in the morning and getting your hair cut, and hanging your suit up properly so that it retains a good shape, and if you are not going to the office, why bother? I claim no virtue in this matter, but so far I have resisted the temptation because I have got into the habit of shaving every day. Indeed, I would never think of appearing without shaving. I also feel better if I feel tidy.

It would be an impertinence to tell other people how they should conduct their lives, but my friend asked me for an answer and I sent him one, and I thought that the subject might be of interest to many, and that is why I am writing about it.

I think that a feeling of well-being is greatly influenced by surroundings. Your home need not be elaborate and expensive, but if you know that it is tidy and clean and that you yourself are well set up and that you would not mind who saw you, you feel better even if there is nobody to look. I think that just as a man expects his wife to keep the home tidy, so that he may be proud of it, so he should keep himself tidy, so that his wife may be proud of him. If there was time to make this effort when you had to go to work every day, catching the early train, there must be plenty of time when you have retired.

These are general observations which I think apply to the ultimate happiness of all kinds of people, but the blind are in a special category. A great many people expect a blind man to be ill-kempt or untidy or unshaven because it is so much more trouble for him to keep up appearances. That seems to me to be a challenge. This sounds rather like a priggish lecture. It is not meant to be, but I have met a number of friends, not necessarily St. Dunstaners, who, when they retire from a regular routine with its discipline, tend to get into slack and idle ways, thinking that they are entitled to take it easy. It has been my experience that, far from enjoying the ease which a long life of regular toil seems to have earned, the era of slackness makes for unhappiness. The fact that a man is at home all the



time instead of going out to work puts a lot more work on his wife, and conversation dries up and they get bored with each other. The art of comfortable and easy retirement is one that is very hard to learn and requires a new self-discipline all its own. Perhaps alternative occupations and companionship, such as may be afforded by joining the local bowling club or the British Legion branch or Toc H, or the church, may be the answer. No doubt, it is for each to choose according to his own circumstances and his fancy, but there is no doubt that a little of what you fancy does you good and that it is a bad thing to get into a rut. And if your neighbours and your friends think you have deteriorated, you will probably begin to think so yourself. The mind has a tremendous effect upon the body and upon the digestion and the temper. In retirement, therefore, let us try to find a new routine which will take the place of the old; thus we shall stand a better chance of happiness.

IAN FRASER.

### Miss M. K. Wilson, M.B.E.

Miss M. K. Wilson, Area Superintendent for the North of England, retires shortly after thirty-eight years' service with St. Dunstan's.

Miss Wilson joined Mrs. Chadwick Bates' staff in May, 1918, as a shorthand typist—an appointment which was to be "for the duration of the war." When Mrs. Bates went to South Africa Miss Wilson became Mr. Askew's secretary, but following Mr. Hegarty's death in 1934, she went to the then After-Care Department, where she has remained, under different Welfare Superintendents, but always with the Northern Area. She is known to hundreds of St. Dunstaners and their wives and families in all parts of the country, and, indeed, all over the world for she has also been one of the main links between St. Dunstan's and our men overseas. Those who have never met her personally have felt the warm friendship and understanding which her letters have expressed. She is truly beloved by the men of St. Dunstan's.

Their regret at her retirement will be softened by the news that Her Majesty the Queen, in the New Year Honours, bestowed upon Miss Wilson the honour of Member of the Order of the British Empire.

We share with St. Dunstaners our regret that the time has come for us to part with Miss Wilson, but we send our affectionate good wishes for much happiness in her retirement.

\* \* \*

We welcome as the new Area Superintendent for the North, Miss M. A. Midgley, who served with the W.A.A.F. during the war years and for a time afterwards. Miss Midgley has been working with Miss Wilson for some months and will take over her new duties in the middle of February.

### Complimentary Tickets

St. Dunstaners are reminded that the Welfare Department usually receives a number of Complimentary Tickets during the year and the following events are covered:—

Royal Tournament.

Trooping the Colour.

Festival of Remembrance.

St. Dunstaners who are interested in these events are invited to write to me requesting that their names should be placed on a waiting list for tickets. Preference in the allocation of tickets will be given to men who have not attended these functions before and the remainder will be allocated by ballot.

C. D. WILLS.

### The New Year Honours

In the New Year Honours, the award of Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) was conferred upon Mr. J. C. Colligan, Secretary-General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

### Deaf-Blind Watch Fund

Mr. A. D. Lloyds, who is the Honorary Treasurer of the above Fund, tells us that, following his note in the November REVIEW, the sum of £31 11s. 0d. has been subscribed. This sum has been forwarded to the National Deaf-Blind Helpers' League, who ask us to say how very much they appreciate the continued support given by St. Dunstaners to this Fund.

### Ex-Service Meetings

Seventeen ex-Service organisations, including St. Dunstan's, met in London on January 5th at the invitation of the British Legion to discuss problems affecting the ex-Service community and in particular the disabled. It is anticipated that regular meetings will be held in the future.

## London Club Notes

On Tuesday evening, December 18th, a number of St. Dunstaners with their wives and escorts assembled at 191 Marylebone Road for the Club's Christmas Party. There were lots of good things to eat and drink and we extend to Mrs. Willis and her band of helpers a very big "Thank you" for a job well done. Bob "Father Christmas" was in evidence once again with his lucky dip and each St. Dunstaner and his wife received a small gift as a reminder that the Christmas festivities were not far away.

We were entertained by some first rate artists who had been brought to the Club by our very good friend, Mr. Jacques Brown. They included the very charming Helen Clare, the Gaunt Brothers, and, for good measure, our very good friend, John Blythe, who compered the show, and a right good job he made of it. We were very glad to welcome among our many guests Mr. A. D. Lloyds.

I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the evening's entertainment, not forgetting our old friend, Charlie (Barman) Harrison, and may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very prosperous New Year. SAM WEBSTER.

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club took place on Tuesday, January 8th. Mr. A. D. Lloyds presided. The new Committee was elected as follows: Messrs. S. Webster (*Chairman*), G. P. Brown, W. Bishop, W. Miller, C. Williamson, J. Fleming.

*Bridge*.—The Bridge Club held its Christmas Bridge Drive on Saturday, December 15th. There were eleven tables in all and twenty-two St. Dunstaners and their sighted partners enjoyed a very fine afternoon's bridge. Mr. Willis carried out the duties of M.C. The results were as follows:—

1st, P. Nuyens and partner.  
2nd, J. Armstrong and partner.  
3rd, H. Crabtree and partner.  
4th, F. Winter and partner.  
The prizes were kindly presented by Mrs. C. Stokes.

The afternoon ended with a splendid tea, prepared by Mrs. Willis and her band of helpers.

And now, on behalf of the Bridge Club, may I wish all REVIEW readers and, I hope, many prospective new bridge players, a very prosperous New Year. G.P.B.

*Walking*.—It was a case of tables turned when we met the Metropolitan Police over 7 miles at Regent's Park on Saturday, December 15th, for they avenged their defeat of November by a much greater margin than I care to think about. Still, the fault was not that of our walkers, as we were the weaker side because of the absence due to sickness of Chas. Williamson and Les. Dennis. We were, however, compensated to some extent by George Hewitt, taking part in his first race for St. Dunstan's.

George, who is 57 years of age and has always been very active, decided that he would like to keep fit and, having read of our activities in the REVIEW, started training with a Brighton club, and has now joined us. He is very keen, and I am sure that he will be a great asset to the walking section. Brighton Walking Club sent us details of George's performances with them, and it was estimated that he would take at least 70 minutes to do the 7 miles, but, by doing some four minutes better than estimated, he simply knocked the handicap for a "Burton."

Billy Miller, getting more into his old form, finished in third place, behind two policemen, and was second in the handicap, with Alf. Bradley third.

In the team race, Metropolitan Police gave us a trouncing.

W.M.

### St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Handicap and Match with Metropolitan Police

Order of Finish	Competitor	Act. Time	Allce.	H'cp. Postn.	Time in H'p
1.	A. D. Bennett M.P.	59-44			
2.	C. Yescombe M.P.	60-56			
3.	W. Miller St.D.	61-48	scr.	61-48	2
4.	J. Holding M.P.	66-34			
5.	T. Kent ... M.P.	66-34			
6.	A. Brown ... St.D.	67-19	2-45	64-34	5
7.	A. Bradley... St.D.	67-37	4-05	63-32	3
8.	F. James ... M.P.	67-51			
9.	H. Lightwing M.P.	68-13			
10.	R. Youlden M.P.	68-13			
11.	J. Paterson M.P.	68-13			
12.	G. Hewitt ... St.D.	68-42	11-30	57-12	1
13.	S. Tutton ... St.D.	68-44	5-00	63-44	4
14.	T. Gaygan... St.D.	72-31	4-50	67-41	7
15.	P. Collins ... M.P.	72-31			
16.	C. Stafford... St.D.	72-46	8-00	64-46	6
Match Result: 1st, Metropolitan Police, 39 points.					
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 71 points.					

★ ★ ★

During Sir Ian's recent visit to Cape Town he made a catch of fifteen fish, weighing a total of 150 pounds; he was fishing off Seal Island.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

In answer to Mr. Hamilton's letter in last month's REVIEW, I did not drop a clanger. I merely expressed an opinion, and I still think that any totally blind man who goes about alone is doing something foolhardy; just think of the number of sighted pedestrians who are killed and injured on the roads, and if sighted people get killed and injured, what are the chances of blind people getting away with it?

Unfortunately, for some reason or another, the Editor only published part of my letter, which altered the whole text of my remarks, as in my original letter to the Editor I quoted a number of accidents that had happened to some of our men who go about alone. These accidents actually happened, at least, they were told me by the men to whom they had happened. The hospitals are full enough now without us blind men doing our best to fill the beds by going about alone. I hope the Editor does not cut this letter, so that it alters the text.

Yours sincerely,

*Great Yarmouth.*

E. B. OXBOROUGH.

DEAR EDITOR,

I cannot agree with Mr. Oxborough's view that St. Dunstaners who go about alone are foolhardy.

Blondin, the Frenchman, walked across the Niagara Falls on a tightrope several times—once blindfold, and on another occasion carrying a man on his shoulders. Was he foolhardy? I think not. He had confidence in his own ability and exceptional gift of balance, and St. Dunstaners who go about alone have confidence in their ability to do so.

If a blind person wears dark glasses and carries a white stick, in my opinion he is better protected than the ordinary pedestrian.

Physical exercise is essential to one's well being. May I pass on this tip for keeping fit when confined indoors. Go to the top of the stairs with your wife, lie down on your stomach, and with your wife holding your ankles, walk down on your hands, wheelbarrow fashion.

Don't attempt this exercise after a heavy meal, the best time being before breakfast after taking your cold bath. To get the full benefit of this exercise, and, incidentally, to let your wife share in the fun, change over and you wheel the wife down.

Yours sincerely,

*Farnworth, near Bolton.*

H. POLLITT.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was very interested in our Chairman's remarks about our reluctance to "make fools of ourselves."

The other day when travelling by train I had occasion to go down the corridor to the little room at the end. When I got there I found it engaged, and it remained engaged for quite a long time. Eventually I thought I had better return and let my wife know where I was and what was happening. I must have miscounted the doors on the way back, but I put my head in through the door of the compartment and whispered to "my wife": "Someone has died in the lavatory." My wife would have accepted this as a joke, because she has become used to my brand of humour after forty to fifty years of it. However, the man who whom I whispered (for "my wife" turned out to be a man) grew very excited and wanted to stop the train, call the guard, knock the door down, etc.

It took some time explaining that this was merely a joke and I know nothing that makes one feel such a fool, whether blind or sighted, as trying to explain a joke that has failed.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A. ORIEL.

*Banbury.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I was at Ovingdean in November and the lounge had just been opened after decorations, and while waiting for the dance to start a girl said "The floor looks lovely; they must have had to scrape down to the bare boards to get all the cigarette burns out."

On Monday, December 3rd, while waiting for a dance, the same girl said: "You should see the floor—it has dozens of cigarette burns already."

Now, you spalpeens, what would your wives say if you put your fag ends on the floors at home, and what would the lounge look like if pipe-smokers knocked their pipes out on the floor? I have carried a round metal tobacco tin in my pocket for such small litter ever since I came to St. Dunstan's, and if you cannot do the same stretch out your arm and you will find an ashtray at both ends of every settee, and others on the walls.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

*Southwick.*

DEAR EDITOR,

On December 1st the jubilee of what is now known as the *National Braille Mail* was commemorated. In an article dealing with this matter it was stated that in 1906 there were 40,000 blind people in the British Isles, whereas in 1956 there were 100,000 blind people. This increase was quoted almost as an achievement—a boast. To me it is an indictment, for surely, with all the modern science for the prevention of blindness and the compulsory industrial safeguards, would it not be right and proper to expect a decrease rather than a 150 per cent. increase? Any comments?

Yours sincerely,

FRANK A. RHODES.

Ovingdean.

### Miss Cecil H. Wood

We very much regret to announce the resignation on December 31st, 1956, through ill-health, of Miss Cecil H. I. Wood, who joined our Welfare Visiting staff on January 1st, 1945, and has completed exactly twelve years in St. Dunstan's service.

Miss Wood has been responsible for visiting St. Dunstaners living in Greater London and we thank her for the energy and sincerity with which she carried out her duties.

We sincerely hope that a period of rest will enable Miss Wood to enjoy a return to good health.

### Are You Using Your Talking Book Machine?

If, for any reason, you are not using your Talking Book Machine any more, its return would be much appreciated. There is a shortage of machines and a long list of blind people who are deeply anxious to obtain one. If you will notify Men's Supplies Department in the first instance we would make the necessary arrangements to have the machine returned.

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We understand that the Royal National Institute for the Blind, or the National Library, will consider putting into Braille two of the books mentioned recently in the REVIEW—"Conquest of Disability," which is edited by Sir Ian Fraser, and "Count your Blessings," by Sir Brunel Cohen.

### Homes Holiday Bookings Ovingdean

*Industrial Holidays.*—St. Dunstaners whose jobs prevent them from taking their holidays at any other time than the period mid-July to mid-August, should ensure that their applications for beds at Ovingdean during that period reach their Area Superintendents by March 31st, 1957. Thereafter all other applications for the remaining beds available will be considered.

*Special Fortnights.*—Last year a number of men took advantage of the special fortnights for St. Dunstaners who wished to spend their holiday at Ovingdean at the same time as other trainees of their year. This year it is planned to hold these fortnights as follows:—

1915-1916	4th to 18th May.
1917	18th May to 1st June.
1918	29th June to 13th July.
1919	14th to 28th September.

Applications for beds during these periods should reach your Area Superintendent in good time in order that you may be sure of a place.

### Northgate House

*To be closed from 15th June to 13th July, 1957.*

Lists of applications for holiday bookings at Northgate House will be closed on the 28th February for periods up to the 15th June, and on the 31st March for periods from the 13th July for the remainder of the summer, and the beds will be allocated according to the length of time which has elapsed since a child previously had a holiday at the Home. Priority will again be given upon this basis to children of employed men who are obliged to take their holidays during fixed periods.

Applications for convalescent periods or other urgent reasons should, of course, continue to be made when the need arises and will be given priority according to the urgency of the case.

### Port Hall

*To be closed from 24th August to 21st September, 1957.*

Women St. Dunstaners are requested to submit their applications for summer holiday periods at the Home to their Area Superintendents by March 31st, in order to facilitate fair allocation of the available beds.

Applications for the Christmas holiday period must reach the Area Superintendent by September 30th, and allocation of beds will be made by ballot if necessary.

C. D. WILLS.



## "Twenty Questions" and the "Brains Trust"

The following correspondence has passed between Sir Ian Fraser and Lt. General Sir Ian Jacob, Director General of the B.B.C.

*7th December, 1956.*

Dear Jacob,

It has been represented to me that the transfer of certain sound programmes, such as Twenty Questions, from ordinary broadcasting to television will deprive blind people as such and others who cannot afford a television set of programmes which they look upon as old friends. I suppose this development is inevitable, but I much hope that in your planning you will bear in mind the loss to many which this process will involve.

Incidentally, I was myself taking part in a Brains Trust programme on television the other day and someone there asked me if I thought that a particular programme would be appropriate for simultaneous transmission on sound. Owing to the fact that I was to take part myself, I listened to the programme on the Sunday before I performed and to a recording of the programme in which I performed, and also to part of the programme the next Sunday. I formed the opinion that, without any alteration, this could well be put on sound to the great advantage of ordinary listeners. It would be nice to think that if they are to be deprived of something, they should also be given something back or given something fresh.

Yours,

IAN FRASER.

Lt. General Sir Ian Jacob, K.B.E., C.B.

Broadcasting House,  
London, W.1.

*18th December, 1956.*

Dear Fraser,

Thank you for your letter of December 7th. As far as I know there is little prospect of Sound Broadcasting giving up "Twenty Questions." It seems to be a well-established favourite and this year ran for 23 weeks, from April to September. The present series on television is by way of an experiment. The Home Service propose to bring the programme back again next spring, and thereafter, if the Television experiment has succeeded, the programme may be broadcast in future jointly both in Sound and Television.

Our Sound Broadcasting people are also keeping a close watch on the progress of the "Brains Trust" on Television. It was, of course, for many years an ingredient of the Home Service, but it finally had to be taken off because the audience declined beyond the point at which it was sensible to keep it on the air. Once there are firmly-established reactions to the Television series, I understand that a decision will be made about the question you have raised.

You may be sure that we are mindful of the blind people for whom Sound Broadcasting continues to be our only service.

Yours sincerely,

IAN JACOB.

Sir Ian Fraser, C.H., C.B.E., M.P.

## The Unemployability Supplement Wives' Earnings

A number of the wives of St. Dunstaners who are receiving the Unemployability Supplement have made enquiries through their respective Visitors as to whether it is now possible for them to earn £2 10s. 0d. weekly, as is permitted to widows and retired persons who receive the Retirement Pension. The answer is that the Ministry of Pensions have made no alteration in their regulations governing the payment of the Unemployability Supplement to pensioners and their wives, and therefore wives whose income from all sources, excluding their allowance from the Ministry of Pensions, exceeds 40s. weekly, cannot qualify for the Supplement.

L. BANKS.

## St. Dunstan's (South Africa)

St. Dunstan's Committee in South Africa gave a party to entertain Sir Ian and Lady Fraser on their arrival in Cape Town at the turn of the year. General Sir Roger Wilson, the new Chairman, acted as host, and many St. Dunstaners and their wives were present, together with members of the Committee and helpers.

★ ★ ★

Keith Branson, who qualified as a physiotherapist last year and returned to South Africa in June, is beginning private practice after more than three months' hospital work.

★ ★ ★

The first woman St. Dunstaner in South Africa is Mrs. Alanson, whose delayed blindness is directly attributable to World War I.

## Overseas News

Our very good wishes to R. C. Locket, of Sandringham, Australia, who is slowly recovering after a long illness; and to Mrs. Locket, who, while he was in hospital, visited him every day—a journey of two hours each way.

★ ★ ★

In an interesting letter to Sir Ian, F. Mayo, of Stockton, New South Wales, Australia, says he still works out the weekly chess problem in the Sunday paper. He has been deaf for about four years now but, he adds, "Deafness is not all loss, believe me. Few people realise how many noises are carried to their brains. I can switch them off most of the time."

★ ★ ★

R. Archer, of Sandringham, who is Hon. Secretary of the Victoria Blinded Soldiers' Association, says that he and Mrs. Archer had a visitor from England recently. It was Miss Miller, at one time a V.A.D. They had a pleasant evening talking of old times and the College. Miss Miller is visiting her sister in Australia.

★ ★ ★

R. Tredenick, of Brisbane, sending good wishes, says that he thinks the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh just made the Olympic Games in Melbourne the grand success they were. The informality of the tour and the warmth of the welcome afforded him was, says our St. Dunstaner, really wonderful.

★ ★ ★

We have just heard that H. D. Hines, of Nova Scotia, was married on March 10th, 1956, and a little daughter—Wendy Diane—was born on November 27th.

## Jim Scrymgeour Retires

Sad news from Queensland, Australia, is of the retirement of James S. Scrymgeour, O.B.E., who for thirty-four years has farmed at Netherby and has, during that time, established himself as one of the leading breeders in Australia. With Mrs. Scrymgeour, he has built up a reputation which has become almost a legend.

Unfortunately, Jim had a scalding accident a year ago and, while he has made a remarkable recovery, his health is not what it was and, acting on medical advice, he is dispersing his wonderful stud of Poll

Shorthorns on March 13th, 1957. Announcing the sale, a writer in *Queensland Country Life* says: "It is an announcement which will spread gloom over Australia's stud beef cattle industry. The average person would say that the grazing industry, least of all stud cattle breeding, offered no scope for a blind man, but Jim Scrymgeour proved them wrong. Now the curtain must fall on an Australia stud of world class. The sad news will be tempered with the knowledge that the blood which brought Netherby to the top in Poll Shorthorn breeding, and kept it there for nearly two decades, will flow into other studs and stimulate their progress."

Mr. and Mrs. Scrymgeour still intend to live at Netherby, and our good wishes will go to them in their well-earned retirement.

## War Pensions Improvements

### New Age Allowance

The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance have now confirmed that, subject to the satisfaction of the conditions as to age, the New Age Allowance will be payable to officers who have the standard rate pension, a wound pension, retired pay at the half pay rate or alternative retired pay, and to those N.C.O.s and other ranks who are in receipt of the standard rate pension or a First World War alternative pension.

Appropriate letters have already been sent by the Ministry to those of their pensioners who are assessed at 40% or over and are already 65 years of age or are approaching that age, and if St. Dunstaners have any difficulty in completing the form perhaps they will get in touch with Mr. Banks at Ovingdean, or with me at 1 South Audley Street.

H. D. RICE.

## Personal

Miss Bertha MacAndrew writes:—

Have you space for a little message to all my friends (and victims!) in the busy St. Dunstan's world, as I slip away from it after twenty years of happy service?

My thoughts—and prayers—will still be with each one of you, as always; a heartfelt gratitude for all the kindness and confidence you have given me. News of you will always be welcome to

Yours most cordially,

B. V. MACANDREW.



## News from the Clubs

### Brighton

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, December 13th, when twenty-six St. Dunstaners and their escorts were present. After a review of the year's work, which included a Derby outing and six coach outings visiting bowls teams, had been portrayed by the Secretary, we proceeded with the election of officers for the ensuing year. Mr. Rhodes was elected Chairman-Secretary, Mr. J. Walch, Vice-Chairman, and the three other Committee members were Messrs. Griffiths, Kelk and Martin.

After the meeting we had a grand domino tournament, followed by the presentation of the Sir Arthur Pearson prizes, which Matron Ramshaw performed with her usual charm. The winners were:—

*Darts*—1st, Mr. Kirk; 2nd, Mr. Pike.

*Crib*.—1st, Mr. James; 2nd, Mr. Kirk.

*Whist*—Mr. Gattrell and Mr. Rhodes tied for first place. Runner-up, Mr. Martin.

*Dominoes*—1st, Mr. Beard; 2nd, Mr. Ashe; Runner-up, Mr. Kirk.

FRANK A. RHODES.

### Birmingham

December 9th was the Club's Christmas Party. A large number of men, wives, children and grandchildren attended. Also a few old friends, including Miss Berry. This year being the first without our old friend, Bill Shakespeare, his son and daughter were present, and as on previous years, as was his custom, gave prizes for each one of the children. His usual appeal on behalf of the deaf-blind was made by Mr. Cooling.

A nice tea was laid by members of the Red Cross, complete with two large iced cakes, made and given by two members of the Club, Mrs. Bilcliff and Mrs. Cashmore. Father Christmas arrived at 6 o'clock with his large sack. He had a cheery word and a parcel for all the children. Miss White brought her troupe of dancers and entertained. This the children loved, not forgetting the mothers and fathers. Cigarettes were handed round, prizes for bagatelle given; these were gifts from old friends. Altogether it was an enjoyable party. Each child received a packet of sweets on leaving, a gift from another member, Mrs. Kibbler.

Many thanks to Miss Streets, Mr. Colling, Miss White, Father Christmas, Red Cross personnel and all who helped to make our party a success.

E. VARLEY.

### Cardiff

A very enjoyable Christmas Party was held at the Alexandra Hotel on January 5th, which marked the end of another successful year in the life of our Club.

Following our summer outing, which has been reported earlier, the Club met monthly when members battled at dominoes, crib and darts in knock-out competitions.

In the autumn an informal party was held, at which a wedding gift was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cartwright, with best wishes for their future happiness, from all club members and wives.

The Christmas Party was well attended, and after a chicken dinner the room was cleared for general activity. Games and dancing were soon under way, and during the intervals impromptu turns were given, including solos by Mr. Owen and Mr. Selby. With Mrs. Caple doing stalwart work at the piano, we let ourselves go with some hearty songs.

During the course of the evening Mrs. Cartwright, formerly Miss Davies, our Area Welfare Visitor, presented the prizes from the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund for competitions mentioned above. Winners were: *Crib*: Mr. Percy Blackmore. *Dominoes*: Mr. Palfrey. *Darts*: Mr. Norman Hopkins. *Ladies' Darts*: Mrs. Lane.

All members of the Cardiff Club wish St. Dunstaners everywhere a very happy New Year.

N. HOPKINS.

### Manchester

The results of the 1956 Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions are as follows:—

*Darts (T.B.)*: G. L. Edwards and S. Heys.

*Darts (S.S.)*: S. Russell and W. Bramley.

*Dominoes*: W. Bramley and S. Heys.

*Cribbage*: H. Abraham and J. Shaw.

In the Ladies' Section, for which the Club provides the prizes, the results were as follows:—

*Darts*: Mrs. Collier and Mr. Abraham.

*Dominoes*: Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Collins.

*Whist*: Mrs. Collier and Mrs. McCarthy.

At the last meeting in 1956 there was a Domino Drive, when wives and escorts joined in friendly battle with members. The result was:—

1st, J. W. Warren.

Runner-up, Mr. S. Russell.

The occasion for the presentation of the prizes and cups was at the Christmas Party,

held at the Palace Restaurant on December 12th, when our generous and kind friend, Mr. Charlie Clarke, handed over the awards and suitably congratulated the winners.

At the party we were pleased to have as guest Miss Vaughan-Davies. After extending a warm welcome to guests and to all members, wives and escorts, the Chairman, Mr. W. Bramley, gave the toast—to St. Dunstan's and to St. Dunstaners everywhere.

J. SHAW, *Secretary*.

### Christmas Rejuvenescence in West House

The heralds of Christmas were piping on November 19th, when the "Pittman" dinner-dance was held at the Grand Hotel. Then followed the "Grocers' 'Do,'" on December 5th. These two signal functions awakened the festive spirit.

Christmas Day, and Christmas Dinner, was a repeat of those of other years—all was excellent. All praise to Mrs. Strange, housekeeper, and to Mrs. Jeffs and her kitchen magicians.

The big items at Ovingdean—relayed to West House—were a huge success.

The staff worked hard and long decorating the common rooms and sick wards.

After the gift-giving on Christmas morning, performed by "Com," his daughter, "Diana" (how she grows!) and Matron, the drive in the warm winter sunshine was an unalloyed pleasure. Miss Heap was in charge and in tip-top form. A mass attack on the Hippodrome on Boxing-day Night was a truly merry "splurge."

Highlights we had to be sure. V.A.D. Miss Morgan for her clever decoration of the walls in the Hall; Sick Bay Orderly Dennis for his excellent decorative painting. Applause, too, for Mrs. Gladys Russell, for her unbelievably dainty terpsichorean performances, assisted by Mesdames Whyman, Block and Cornell, with Miss May popping in to have a "go," while Miss Bull duly attended to the "ducks" and "wall-flowers."

From "Com," through Matron Avison, to the staff, thank you so very, very much for all you did. It was a real "honey-bunch" Christmas which made us feel again some of the spirit of youth.

W. E. BROOKES.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. T. Clarke, of Carterton, near Oxford, January 3rd.

### "We Had to Laugh"

"In the summer of 1931 my wife and I decided we would spend an evening at the theatre. We went along to book seats for the comedy "It's a Boy." All the bookable seats had been sold but we were advised to get to the theatre early and wait in the queue. This we did and found we could borrow folding stools to sit on instead of standing. The canvas on my stool was a little torn so that I sat gingerly while listening to the entertainers in the roadway. A gentleman came along and placed his hand on my shoulder and asked me if I was safe, or rather that is what I thought he said. When I replied everyone around me began to laugh, and each time I tried to inquire what had happened the laughter increased. Eventually I was told that a member of the Salvation Army had asked me if I was *saved* when I had jumped off the seat and said "Oh hell! I don't know."

MALCOLM JORDAN.

*Hove.*

"I recall the occasion at the Church Stretton Training Centre when Norton Christal and I had retired to the little room behind the Concert Hut platform to read Braille. We had just settled down when we heard a noise from the other side of the room. "Hullo," I said, "Who's that?" There was no reply, nor again when I repeated my question was there any reaction, but bags of dead silence. (One has to remember that this was in our very early days of being blind).

"I fancied that somebody with a twisted sense of humour was up to something, so suggested that Norton should stand by the door with his stick at the ready whilst I explored the room. I won't say who was the most surprised when my roving stick produced a frightened yelp from the dog which had followed us in."

WALTER THORNTON.

*Heathfield, Birmingham.*

"Since my head injury of the last war I have been somewhat lacking in my sense of taste and smell.

"On sitting down to my tea a short time ago, I accepted my wife's suggestion that I might like to have some cold pork, together with a helping of tomato chutney. This little repast having been completed, I consented to the idea of a second performance. The remainder of the pork was put before me and I was left to help myself



to more chutney. After a few minutes my wife asked me what I was searching the table for. I pointed out that I was looking for the top of the tomato chutney jar. I was assured that it was already safely screwed on, but I just had to protest, as I had the very jar still in my hand.

"Imagine my broad smile when I had it pointed out that I had dressed my second helping with *plum jam*."

A. G. BRADLEY, *Northwood Hills*.

"It was a bitterly cold day and my daughter had taken me for a sharp walk across the fields. We came to the river, but the plank bridge connecting the path on either side had been taken away or had been washed away. Being very agile, and the river a mere stream at this point, my daughter jumped across and called to me to follow, giving me an overhanging willow to steady me, and saying that it was just about three feet and would save us walking back, the way we had come. I jumped, but the willow broke, and I jumped right into the middle of that icy stream and slid disgracefully in the mud, to be completely immersed. I scrambled out to her side laughing, but more to calm her as she was upset and I had to walk home wet through. My neighbour and companion at the local in front of all and sundry said that he had heard of some dafties before, but when a chap deliberately jumped into eighteen inches of water to try and swim home, that was the limit."

A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary*.

"While on holiday in Morecambe with the members of Colne and District Society for the Blind, we were seated at small tables for four in the dining room. Each day after the main course for tea, we had either fruit and cream or trifle. Then one day a small dish was placed on the table and I ate the contents. I thought 'It tastes sweet, very much like jam.' Of course, it was jam, jam for four."

H. DRIVER, *Colne, Lancs.*

### Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. G. Furniss, of Telscombe Cliffs, December 30th; Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Cooper, of Bridlington, January 20th.

### Married 48 Years

Mr. and Mrs. W. Joyce, of Layton, Blackpool, celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on October 10th.

### Family News

Trevor Holland, Heswall, has been promoted to the rank of Petty Officer on the destroyer, *H.M.S. Barfleur*. He was at Suez from the beginning of the campaign.

Dorothy Cole gained 80 out of 100 marks at Lower Tuffley Music Festival, and won a first class certificate and a medal. She is also singing a solo on Speech Day.

Eight year old Janice Poole, Preston, has passed a Preliminary Elocution examination.

Barry Robinson, Rayleigh, who is ten, won first prize in a local Road Safety competition. He found 17 faults out of a possible 18 on a bicycle which was stripped of parts that made it roadworthy. His prize was a fifteen guinea cycle. The competition had been open to the general public and many adults competed.

Senga Boseley, Wallasey, was one of the babes in a local pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," and after the first night a member of the audience asked her mother if she could take her for voice training—she looks for pupils with promise. Her small sister, Sandra, was a fairy in the show.

Michael Halliday, Saltdean, won the School Prize for a piece of pottery. He is extremely skilled in this.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Grace Ethel Smith, Bury St. Edmunds, on December 22nd, to Frederick G. Bird, of Walsham le Willows.

The son of T. Dickinson, of Brighton, was married on December 9th.

Terence Brooks, Bedford, married Barbara Hare on December 22nd.

Leonard W. Leeman, Louth, was married in December to Jean Taylor; they will eventually live in Nigeria.

The youngest daughter of A. Budden, of Morden, was married on December 22nd.

### Great Grandfather

B. Jarvill, of Thorne, Doncaster.

### Grandfathers

W. Burgin, of Southwick; H. Acton, of Paignton.

A. Hermon, of Watlington, his daughter, who lives in Canada, had twins—a boy and a girl—on August 31st.

D. C. H. Cole, of Lower Tuffley, Glos.; C. Knight, of Thurmaston (his step-daughter has given birth to a son); A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary (the 10th grandchild).

## Ovingdean Notes

### Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association

The annual Christmas Party for St. Dunstaners living in this area, and those staying at the Brighton Homes, was held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on Wednesday, December 5th. The President of the National Federation of Grocers, Mr. Carter, and the President of the local Association, Mr. Poole, attended with representatives from Southampton, Portsmouth and Hastings. Mr. Finlay, the Secretary of the Brighton, Hove and District Association, was unable to be present owing to illness, and St. Dunstaners will be glad to hear that he is now making good progress. Our thanks go to Mrs. Finlay, who took over much of the work from her husband, and enabled the party to go off smoothly. Sir Neville Pearson represented St. Dunstan's Council.

Commandant and Matron and the Staff at Ovingdean wish to thank all St. Dunstaners who sent them greetings at Christmas and to send to all readers of the REVIEW their very sincere good wishes for the New Year.

We should also like to tell you that the Chapel Collections at Ovingdean in 1956 amounted to £60 and donations were sent to the following organisations:—

National Fund for Poliomye-				
litis Research	...	...	£10	0 0
Hungarian Relief Fund	...	...	10	0 0
Tarner Home, Brighton	...	...	15	0 0
Brighton and Hove Girls' Orphanage	...	...	15	0 0
St. Matthew's Church Com-				
forts Fund	...	...	10	0 0

In addition to the amounts sent from the Chapel Fund, there were also collections in the Brighton Homes for both the Polio Research Fund and the Mayor of Brighton's Hungarian Relief Fund.

The Christmas programme at Ovingdean, which started off with a Concert by the Brighton Male Voice Choir on Sunday, 23rd December, left hardly a spare moment from then until the New Year. The house was full for the Staff Concert on Christmas Eve and we were pleased also that many local St. Dunstaners came along, too, to join the audience. Christmas presents were distributed in the Lounge the following morning, and after port had been served, everyone went into the attractively decorated dining room to sit down and enjoy the

traditional Christmas dinner. As usual, we had a Fancy Dress Dance on Boxing Day, and during the week that followed, parties went to the Hippodrome to see "Babes in the Wood." New Year's Eve came—and went—celebrated with dancing and a cabaret until close on midnight when hot punch was served, and the Old Year tottered out! Everyone wished everyone else a "Happy New Year" and so we all began 1957!

It was somewhat quieter here by the 2nd January, for most of the holiday men had gone. The trainees returned that same day and the Spring Term began on the 3rd.

## The Rest of the News

Kenneth McIntyre, of Durban, South Africa, who two years ago became a member of the committee of the Natal European and Coloured Blind Society, has been appointed a member of the Board of Management of the Arthur Blaxall School for the Blind. Last month, at the bi-annual conference of the South African National Council for the Blind, he was co-opted on to its National Executive Committee.

★ ★ ★

J. W. Swann, of Cosby, Leicestershire, who is one of our handless St. Dunstaners, plays dominoes for the Blacksmiths' Arms "A" team. They have just won the Northampton Breweries Companies League for the third time. He has three brothers and a brother-in-law in the team with him.

## Births

FRANKLIN.—On December 30th, to the wife of A. H. Franklin, of Edmonton, a son—Christopher Stephen.

GORMAN.—On December 15th, to our St. Dunstaner Mrs. Stella Gorman, of Maghull, near Liverpool, a second son—Gerard.

MOON.—On December 22nd, to the wife of C. Moon, of Guernsey, Channel Islands, a daughter.

SMITH.—On January 5th, to the wife of Gordon Smith, of Saltdean, a son.

WOODHALL.—On December 27th, to the wife of J. W. Woodhall, of Tipton, Staffs., a son.

## Marriages

LUCAS.—On December 22nd, W. Lucas, of Tenterden.

STERNO.—On December 22nd, A. Sterno, of Bath.



## “In Memory”

### Private Martin Manning, *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of M. Manning, which took place in the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, on January 6th. He had been a permanent resident at West House but had been ill for a very long time. His home previously had been at Charleville, Co. Cork.

Serving from 1914 until March, 1919, he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1929, and trained as a boot repairer.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

### Gunner Dennis Morrison, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of Dennis Morrison, of Cork.

He was a gunner in his regiment, which he had joined as early as 1904, but when he was discharged in 1919 he did not come to St. Dunstan's. When he did come—in 1947—his age prevented any training.

He had been ill for some time before his death and our sincere sympathy is offered to his daughter, Mrs. Mohally, with whom he had recently gone to live, and to the other members of his family.

His comrades, St. Dunstaners Keegan and Healey, attended the funeral.

### Private John Unsworth, *Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Unsworth, of Withdean, Brighton. He was 62. He came to St. Dunstan's in 1938 and trained as a netter, but he gave this up some years ago. He was a mustard gas case and had suffered with his chest for some years. In March, 1956, he was admitted to the Sick Ward of West House and he died there on December 26th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Unsworth.

### Private James Watson, *North Staffordshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Watson, of Portslade. He was 63.

He was discharged from the Army in 1916 and admitted to St. Dunstan's in September, 1931. He trained as a boot repairer and continued with this work until his retirement at the end of 1955.

He was a widower for many years, and our deep sympathy is offered to his daughter, who had cared for him.

### Private Edward Williams, *Training Reserve Battalion*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. Williams, of Windhill, near Shipley.

He served from April, 1917, until January, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1923. He trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker, but for a very long time before his death he had not been able to attempt anything but the lightest work.

He leaves a widow and a large family, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

### Air Raid Warden Frank Arthur Game, *Civil Defence*

With deep regret we record the death of F. A. Game, of Chislehurst, Kent. He was 56.

He was injured in an air raid in January, 1941, but he did not come to us until April, 1951, when he trained as a basket-maker, and he was carrying on his craft right up to the time he was admitted to hospital in December. He died there on January 13th.

He leaves a widow and two daughters, to whom our deep sympathy goes out.

### Private A. J. Cooper, *18th Canadians*

We have heard with deep regret from Captain Woodcock of the death of A. J. Cooper, of Toronto.

Wounded in France in July, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's and trained as a shorthand typist. Later he took a post in Canada but visited this country several times. In August, 1953, his wife died very suddenly shortly after they had arrived here. He had not been well for the past several months; he had never got over the shock of her passing.

He leaves a son, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

### L.A.C. Herbert Wilfred Harris, *Royal Australian Air Force*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of H. W. Harris, of Carnegie, Victoria, Australia, which occurred on December 3rd after a brief illness. He was a Second War man.

He did not come to St. Dunstan's to train but we had been in touch with him for some years.

He was a bachelor and lived with his sister, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### George P. Stock, *Australian Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of G. P. Stock, of Sydney, New South Wales, who although he did not come to St. Dunstan's, had been in touch with us for very many years. He was a First War man.

He worked for many years as a physiotherapist at a local hospital.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his relatives.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy is extended this month to the following:—

**AHRENS.**—To A. H. Ahrens, of Stanford-le-Hope, whose wife died on January 7th.

**ASHURST.**—To our St. Dunstaner, Sally Ashurst, of Wigan, whose brother died suddenly before Christmas.

**BISHOP.**—To W. B. Bishop, of Croydon, who lost his mother at the beginning of December.

**CRABTREE.**—To H. Crabtree, of Wood Green, N.22, whose sister died on December 18th, after a long illness.

**WATERWORTH.**—To G. Waterworth, of Coventry, whose brother died on December 4th at the early age of 47.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Sensory Devices

SOME years ago St. Dunstan's devoted some special funds which had been placed at its disposal to research work on what were called Sensory Devices. A sensory device is an invention which seeks to substitute the use of the senses of hearing, touch, smell or skin pressure for the sense of sight.

A group of most eminent scientists acted as our Advisory Committee. In particular, we investigated devices which would enable blind persons to walk alone more easily, being aided by radar or other electronic apparatus. Our findings were that while some help may be gained theoretically, in practice the difficulty of using the apparatus and its weighty and inconvenient nature made it extremely unlikely that any blind person would use it.

The truth of this matter seems to be that the ordinary ears and intelligence of the ordinary blind man are better than any machine in the matter of getting about alone.

Another experiment was to try to devise apparatus that would translate ordinary printed words into spoken English or some synthetic language which could be fairly readily understood, so that a blind person could read the daily newspaper or an ordinary book.

Forty years ago the Optophone was invented, which translated ordinary print into sound signals that could be recognised, but there are only one or two extremely clever blind people who have ever been able to read it because it is so complicated.

Then we turned our attention to improvements in the Talking Book, and gave a lot of consideration to the substitution of the present disc records by tape. The conclusion we then came to was that the art of tape recording was developing so fast that it would be a mistake to choose any particular system, whether using tape, film or wire, at that moment.

Tape recording has now settled down to a considerable extent and certain standards have been more or less established, and the Talking Book Committee, with the support of the R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's, have decided upon a new experiment. We propose to initiate a new Subsidiary Talking Book Library, utilising tape recording, and run this for a year or two as a kind of pilot plant to see how it works in practice.

The R.N.I.B. and St. Dunstan's will each make available fifty machines, the former to civilians and the latter to St. Dunstaners, on terms to be arranged. Probably volunteers will be called for who are willing to take the new machines and give up their old ones. The advantage for the volunteer would be that he would be in on the ground floor of a new and most interesting experiment, but the disadvantage would be that at first he would not have a very wide choice of books.



The design for the new Book is that of a metal or plastic box or cassette, about the size of a large box of chocolates or a big family Bible. This cassette would contain well over 1,600 feet of tape and it would be read aloud for, say, twenty hours, which is roughly the length of an ordinary longish novel.

If and when this system proves itself, the very big question of changing the whole Talking Book Library over from disc to tape over a number of years will be considered. It may then be possible to establish a section in the new Tape Library for students, so that special books on physiotherapy, or law, or, indeed, on any set subject of limited interest might be made available.

Meantime, a small experiment is already being conducted for students, and a few records on  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch tape which run at  $3\frac{3}{4}$ -inch per second on  $5\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter spools are available for physiotherapy and law students. Particulars of these can be obtained from the R.N.I.B.'s Students' Library or from the Welfare Department at St. Dunstan's. Any blind person who buys a recording machine for his own use will almost certainly find that it will play these students' records, but it must be understood that we cannot guarantee that such records will continue to be available after we have successfully established the new method, utilising the cassette which I have described. In other words, the present arrangements for students must be regarded as a temporary one, and anyone who buys a recording machine must do so because he wants it for general purposes and not because he wishes to rely upon the continuance of the Students' Library indefinitely.

Although the decision has been taken regarding the pilot scheme, using cassettes, it will be many months before they become available, but we will keep our friends informed on the progress we are making.

IAN FRASER.

### A.M.I.M.E.

Our warmest congratulations to Ray Benson, of Farnborough, who has been elected an Associate Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. He is believed to be the first blind person to achieve this distinction, although there are members who have lost their sight since being elected.

Ray has been working and studying for this for the past fourteen years. The Institute requires not only theoretical qualifications, but also practical experience, and the last two years have, of course, been extremely difficult because the authorities were at first reluctant to accept him because of his blindness.

Our St. Dunstaner's splendid achievement should be an inspiration to others similarly situated.

### Presentation Fund for Miss Wilson

Many St. Dunstaners have expressed a wish to subscribe to a Presentation to Miss Wilson on the occasion of her retirement. I shall be pleased to act as Honorary Treasurer, and will any St. Dunstaners who desire to associate themselves with this, kindly send their subscriptions to me at St. Dunstan's Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

A. D. LLOYDS.

### Payments to ex-Japanese Prisoners of War

The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance announces that any ex-prisoner or civilian internee, or an immediate relative of those who have died, who has not yet received his share, or a share under the earlier distributions from the realisation of Japanese assets, should write as soon as possible to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, at Thames House South, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Applications cannot be considered after June 30th next and the final distribution will bring the amount which each prisoner-of-war has received to £76 10s. 0d.

This final payment will be automatic to all prisoners-of-war who have previously applied and received interim payments.

### Braille Correspondent Wanted

Mrs. Hewitson, whom many St. Dunstaners will have met at Ovingdean, has a young woman friend whose sight is slowly failing and who has just completed her braille lessons. She is anxious to correspond with a St. Dunstaner and Matron Ramshaw will be very glad indeed to hear from anyone who would like to write to her in braille.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—The Harrogate Week will be held this year from September 7th-14th. Arrangements have been made for our party to be accommodated again at the Dirlton Hotel, Ripon Road, and the terms per day will be 27s. inclusive.

As we must make our reservations at the hotel as soon as possible, will all members who would like to join the party and who have not already sent in their names to Mr. Willis do so as soon as possible.

As we go to press, our team in the London Business Houses League have now played eight matches, of which they have won three, lost three, and drawn two.

## St. Dunstan's Ten Mile Handicap Walk for the "Fiturite" Cup

Regent's Park, Saturday, 19th January, 1957

Order of Finish		Time	Alle.	H'cp. Time in H'p	Post.
1.	P.C. Fogg ...	M.P. 86-00			
2.	W. Miller ...	St.D. 91-38	Scr.	91-38	3
3.	P.C. Kent ...	M.P. 93-22			
4.	A. Brown ...	St.D. 94-22	5-00	89-22	2
5.	C. Williamson				
	St.D.	97-15	4-00	93-15	6
6.	P.C. Lightwing				
	M.P.	98-07			
7.	G. Hewitt ...	St.D. 98-50	9-30	89-20	1
8.	A. Bradley	St.D. 100-15	8-30	91-45	4
9.	P.C. Ferguson	M.P. 101-41			
10.	P.C. Barratt	M.P. 101-48			
11.	T. Gaygan	St.D. 101-50	10-00	91-50	5
12.	S. Tutton ...	St.D. 103-00	9-30	93-30	7
13.	P.C. Soame	M.P. 103-44			
14.	C. Stafford...	St.D. 105-45	11-00	94-45	8
15.	P.C. Ansell	M.P. 106-09			
Result of Match—1st, St. Dunstan's			49 points		
2nd, Metropolitan P.			57 points		

## Double Celebration

On January 5th there was great rejoicing among the family of Mr. and Mrs. G. Lawlor, of Leamore, Walsall, when our St. Dunstaner and his wife celebrated their Golden Wedding, and their son, Christopher (the youngest of ten) married Joyce Haycock. There were sixty guests at the wedding of the young people in the afternoon and afterwards a party of some two hundred relatives and friends celebrated the double event. As our St. Dunstaner said, "Everyone agreed it was the biggest party they'd ever known in Bloxwich."

Chris and his wife will go on living in his parents' house at Leamore, where he was born, and Joyce will housekeep for them.

## Rock 'n' Roll at St. Dunstan's

When Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Ovingdean on February 1st they found there was great interest in the current dancing sensation, rock 'n' roll.

Following their visit, on February 11th Miss Marguerite Vacani, the famous teacher of ballroom dancing who forty years ago gave lessons in Regent's Park to St. Dunstaners of the First World War, went to Ovingdean, where she initiated the new generation—and many of the old—in the 1957 version of the Charleston of the twenties. St. Dunstaners, young and old, with their partners, rocked and rolled in the approved style. Now Miss Vacani hopes to make a fortnightly visit to Brighton until the class is really 100% efficient.

In private life, Miss Vacani is the wife of Lieut. Col. R. L. Rankin, and during her very full life she has raised more than £16,000 for hospitals by her matinées, has spent many years teaching dancing to blind people, while her school of ballroom dancing and deportment, of course, is world-famous.

## Talking of Walking—

'Tis time St. Dunstan's Walking Section  
Had a column in this 'ere "Review",  
So I've taken this job on myself, Sir,  
By conveying the facts now to you.  
I'll tell you of rigorous training,  
Of walks in the Park Tuesday nights,  
With police for our guides and our escorts,  
And of fitness achieved by lamplight.  
I'll tell you of dressing-room jest, Sir,  
And of liniment, blisters and grease,  
And of judges, hot tea and cold weather,  
But never a sign of cold feet.  
Our races go on by the hour, Sir,  
As round the Park we stride and strive,  
Trying hard to keep well on the ground with our feet  
Though uncertain if dead or alive.  
I remember how one lucky starter  
Who was last for a deuce of a while,  
Turned up at the end with a prize, Sir,  
For on him did the handicap smile.  
I'll tell you of one gallant walker  
Who set off for fair Brighton town.  
Arrived, and walked back in a day, Sir,  
"Centurion" Archibald Brown.  
I'll tempt you with muscle and brawn, Sir,  
Of St. Dunstan's in athletic sport,  
Ring Paddington 5021, Sir,  
And join us if you think you ought.

A. G. BRADLEY.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I note that Mr. H. Pollitt writes in the January issue that a little exercise is a good thing, and being of the age that athletics have passed me by, I am all for indoor exercises, especially if my wife can join in. Accordingly I carefully explained that all she had to do was to go to the head of the stairs and, taking my ankles, I would proceed to walk downstairs wheelbarrow fashion. She looked very dubious but after a little cajoling she said she would try anything once. Placing my hand two stairs down, she seized my ankles and we started. But you know what women are. She let go and I landed all of a heap at the bottom, undaunted. But now came the best part. Mr. Pollitt says we should change over, and I told my wife it was her turn, but first she must have a cold bath. She said she would see me in Hades before she had a cold bath in February, so I made do with a swipe with a cold sponge. Then we really got going, my wife with her hands on the stairs and myself holding her ankles like grim death. She wouldn't move so I gave her a gentle push and down we came. We broke the banisters, tore the carpet and she busted her suspenders. Relations between us are still strained, but I am sure as we feel the benefits of exercise we shall make it all up.

Yours sincerely,

*Perivale.*

P. ASHTON.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should very much like, on behalf of my wife and myself, to record warmest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to our very dear friend, Miss Wilson. It is with a very deep feeling of a great loss that we hear of her retirement, and I feel too that it will also be felt by many hundreds of St. Dunstaners and their families. She has indeed been a very great help to us by her good understanding, sympathy and help, and it is very sad to know that she is now leaving us.

We sincerely hope she will enjoy very many more years of good health and happiness in her retirement, and that she may still be able to meet so many of the friends she has made in St. Dunstan's.

We should also like to extend to her successor, Miss Midgley, our warmest wishes, and sincerely hope she too will find very many friends in her work with the

After-Care Department of St. Dunstan's, and we send her our best wishes and a hand of friendship.

Yours sincerely,

F. and M. GUISELEY.

*Menston-in-Wharfedale.*

DEAR EDITOR,

After six months of retirement I find myself in complete agreement with our Chairman on the subject, but sometimes find shaving easier after, say, two days' growth. It may be said that wives never retire and so we cannot be too thankful to them for all they do for us, whose appearance should be as pleasing as possible!

When petrol rationing ends, doubtless road accident figures will increase again; meanwhile, getting about alone may be less risky, but this is a question for the individual concerned to decide, according to circumstances, and not being over-confident with such sight as one may have.

Yours sincerely,

*Bournemouth.*

ARTHUR T. BROOKS.

DEAR EDITOR,

Surely when one is disabled, even if working, one tends to develop an interest in many hobbies or crafts, otherwise, judging by myself, I am afraid I would be bored to death even when working.

Joining a club as Sir Ian Fraser indicated may be a sort of sedative to boredom, but I think most disabled working men and women do develop interests by the mere fact of already mixing with others. My advice would be to take up a craft as well as joining clubs.

There is another point on which I was most interested. I wonder when it will be possible for those of us who prefer to do a little handicraft to be permitted to draw the unemployability allowance and earn more than the 19s. 11d. per week which I understand is now the limit. I note wives can earn up to £2, but what has the poor pensioner to do? Agree to earn 19s. 11d. and draw the unemployability? Earn £1 0s. 1d. and be ineligible? What a lot of nonsense! I think "cut out the earnings" and let the pensioner draw a flat rate of pensions, applicable to us all.

Yours sincerely,

*Birkenhead.*

MAUREEN LEES.

DEAR EDITOR,

I must confess that for years and years I have been awaiting an opportunity to find out for myself something of the workings

(actually) of Ovingdean. I, as you know, have not had very much time to do this, working so closely with the Appeals Department as Freddie's chauffeuse. I often thought to myself, "Well, here I am, helping Freddie to get in the shekels, and yet I know nothing of the actual workings of this place, which for the past thirty-nine years I have been so closely connected with." When Freddie retired I thought, here is my chance to really see what happens. I did not expect my chance to come the way it did and am I overwhelmed!

Although I have been connected with many more organisations than St. Dunstan's in the past, I have never yet come across such attention, such, may I say it, loving solicitude, than what Freddie experienced in the Sick Bay at Ovingdean.

As his wife I make my thanks public. Please thank all who contributed to his getting well again, especially Dr. John, and the Sick Bay staff, not forgetting our Matron. So now I am so glad in my old age that, as a very young wife, I gave my undivided attention to St. Dunstan's. It has for me been a case of casting your bread upon the waters. In my case it has been returned a million times.

Yours sincerely,

*Lancing.*

MILLIE RICHARDSON.

DEAR EDITOR,

As a result of the appeal made in the REVIEW for subscriptions for furnishings for the new Roman Catholic Church at Rottlingdean, a sum of £15 14s. 6d. was collected. A cheque for this amount was handed to the Parish Priest.

He has asked me to convey his thanks to those who so kindly sent in their donations.

I, for my part, wish to thank both Mr. Lloyds and the REVIEW for the help you gave in arranging the collection and receiving the subscriptions.

Yours sincerely,

TIM GAIGER.

*Devizes.*

## Holiday Accommodation

SEASIDE HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.—Bed and breakfast at moderate price. Please apply early.—Mrs. "Paddy" Doyle, "Harlington," Great Preston Rd., Ryde, Isle of Wight.

## Music Hall Memories

"Gertie Gitana's dead," said my wife, and my mind shot back to the Brighton Hippodrome, 1916, where I last heard Gertie Gitana singing. Indeed, it must have been the last professional performance I went to, but on that occasion she was not singing "Nellie Dean," but a recruiting song. Kirkley and Hudson were also there, singing "Somebody would shout out 'Shop!'" Another never-to-be-forgotten performance during the First War was George Robey and Violet Loraine singing "If you were the only girl in the world." As for Sir Harry Lauder, I remember him at the time when he was singing "Stop your tickling, Jock," "I love a Lassie," and "The Wedding of Sandy McNab," right up to when I could hear no more—those early days of Little Tich, Marie Lloyd and Vesta Tilley. Do you remember Eugene Stratton and G. H. Elliott's coon songs? And there was Victoria Monks, Vesta Victoria and Florrie Forde, who sang so many of the songs we sang on the march.

There were fine musicians, too, like Harry Fragson, who played the piano and (I forget his name), the one who was known as the "Magician of the Violin," and there were the "Ten Loonies."

She was an old lady with hands like a chicken's feet. She had left London to take a post in China for a firm when you could hear the click-clack of the hansom cab horse sprint down Oxford Street, or Piccadilly—the rattle of the harness and tinkle of the bells. How the polished spokes of the wheels sparkled in the sun. Gentlemen with glistening silk-hats and ladies wearing gem-studded combs in their hair. They were the days when the Brighton Promenade was a blaze of colour with the ladies' sunshades!

"No," I replied to the old lady, "I've never heard wireless." "You haven't missed much," she said, and we began to talk of the atmosphere of the old music-hall, the footlights, the raising of the curtain, the appearing of the artist, the hush that fell on the whole house as he, or she, sang, then the burst of applause as the last word was reached.

Sitting by the fireside listening to more or less a mechanical voice can never be the same.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.



## International Literary Competition for the Blind

Blind persons throughout the world—regardless of race, religion, or nationality—are invited to participate in the Ninth International Literary Competition sponsored by the *Jewish Braille Review*.

Manuscripts may be submitted in any language and the contest includes three categories—the short story, poetry and non-fiction (essays, articles, autobiographical sketches, tributes, etc.). In addition to the five hundred dollars in prizes which will be awarded, the winning entries will be published in the *Jewish Braille Review*.

Miss Pearl Buck, the well-known author, who will again be one of the judges, says:

"If I have anything to say to blind writers, it is not advice so much as it is a wish, a hope that they will make use of their own gifts, that they will not imitate those who see with the physical eye, but will cultivate their special vision, and through their own experience of life, from their own viewpoint, open to the rest of the world—the seeing who are often the unseeing—the true meaning of what lies beyond the mind and the spirit of human beings."

Entries, which will be accepted until July 31st, 1957, should be marked "Literary Competition," and addressed: The Jewish Braille Institute of America, 101 West 55th Street, New York, 19.

## The Increase in the Blind Population

Several St. Dunstaners—Percy Ashton, Malcolm Jordan, Arthur T. Brooks and Maureen Lees among them—responded to Frank Rhodes' request last month for comments upon the reported increase in the blind population in the British Isles from 40,000 in 1906 to 100,000 in 1956. The following reasons were suggested for this increase: (1) the increase of eight millions in the entire population since 1906; (2) the coming of the Welfare State and the fact that thousands of blind people now registered as blind persons would not have been included in 1906; (3) the fact that people live longer nowadays, thereby increasing the figures for aged blind.

It was also pointed out, however, by John Mudge and others, that the numbers might have been more but for the advancement of scientific and surgical knowledge and methods.

## From the Chairman's Postbag

Captain Peter Gobourn, of the Royal Army Service Corps, now stationed in Bengazi, recently wrote to Sir Ian telling him of the splendid efforts of the Forces Broadcasting Service there to help the Wireless for the Blind Fund.

Captain Gobourn is the son of our St. Dunstaner, S. Gobourn, of Cheltenham, and this is how his letter ended: "We had a quiet Christmas Day . . . I thought back to Christmas, 1942, when a lonely young soldier, with six weeks' service to his credit, received a Christmas present from 'your father's old comrades at St. Dunstan's.' Even Fort George seemed brighter! Much water has passed under many bridges since then!"

## Brighton Club Notes

As we had such a full programme during 1956, being entertained by various Bowls Clubs, a dinner party was arranged. This was held at the "Seven Stars Hotel," Ship Street, Brighton, on January 23rd. There were fifty-eight present in all, comprising St. Dunstaners and their friends. We were especially pleased to welcome Mrs. Bamber, Mrs. Kenefick and Mrs. Unsworth. After dinner we had an informal entertainment, when Miss Vilmaneve, Mr. Walch and Mr. Doubler rendered solos and gave of their best. Miss Vilmaneve and Mr. Doubler also gave us a real treat with duets. Major Wasser, with his charming personality and wonderful accompaniments, was much appreciated. Mr. Mudge added a lighter vein with his homespun chatter, and Mr. Martin, "The Whitest Man I know," added even a lighter vein.

FRANK A. RHODES,  
*Secretary.*

## Grandfathers

Samat bin Samat, of North Shields, our Malayan St. Dunstaner, has become a grandfather.

New grandchildren have arrived for A. T. Brooks, of Bournemouth, H. R. Prior, of Portchester, F. E. Moorley, of Chaddesden, and P. Sheridan, of Wishaw (the second great-grandchild).

Beryl, the step-daughter of G. Moore, of Blackpool, had a son on January 24th, and a son was born on January 8th to Mrs. Batey, daughter of our late St. Dunstaner, W. Buckham, of Birtley, co. Durham.

## A Fair Dinkum Story

I met a blinded ex-sailor who served with me for over five years on the first H.M.A.S. *Sydney*—from 1913 to 1918. I was a Signaller at that time and sighted the German cruiser, S.M.S. *Emden*, off Cocos Island. My ex-shipmate was captain of a 6-inch gun. There are only about twelve of the old-timers left in and around Melbourne, and we have not had a reunion since World War Two started—until last November 9th. There were seven of us and we had a jolly three-hour lunch—and kept on an even keel! My cobbler, Bert, wanted us to buy a ticket in a £10,000 sweepstake named Tattersall's. We were dropped at a nearby store and he said he'd get to Tatt's blindfolded—what for I don't know, as he has only about 3% sight. We did eventually find the entrance and after getting bushed about six times, we did get to the window where, with a lass's assistance, we made our application. Then we got back to the street. He had a white stick and I had nothing, just his left arm. He got no bumps but I collected the lot. We had to cross Swanston Street, which is where Flinders Street Station is, and it is the busiest station in the whole world. We made it. Then we made for the Talking Book Library. I never missed a trick. I walked into a pair of steps with a man on them re-charging a lamp. He saw me in time and dropped to the path, grabbing the steps to stop them cracking the store window. Bert now sheared off to the right hand side of the path and walked against the oncomers. They dodged his white stick and I picked up the collisions. When about three paces from the opposite kerb, I heard a screeching of brakes and smelt oil. Bert said "It's only a tramway bus." What a comfort! We made the footpath and I breathed freely. Bert heard me and said "Don't you trust me?" I said "No. Definitely a thousand times, No!"

BILL SEABROOK.

Victoria, Australia.

★ ★ ★

At Norwich Flower Show in September, W. Abbs, of Moor End, Stibbard, gained three firsts, four seconds, three "highly commended," and a bronze "Smallholder" medallion; and at the same show H. Goodley, of Diss, also did well, taking five second prizes and a "highly commended."

## War Pensions Improvements New Age Allowance

The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance have now confirmed that, subject to the satisfaction of the conditions as to age, the New Age Allowance will be payable to officers who have the standard rate pension, a wound pension, retired pay at the half pay rate or alternative retired pay, and to those N.C.O.s and other ranks who are in receipt of the standard rate pension or a First World War alternative pension.

Appropriate letters have already been sent by the Ministry to those of their pensioners who are assessed at 40% or over and are already 65 years of age or are approaching that age, and if St. Dunstaners have any difficulty in completing the form perhaps they will get in touch with Mr. Banks, at Ovingdean, or with me at 1 South Audley Street.

H. D. RICE.

## "I had to Laugh—Afterwards"

Here is what happened when I first made a fool of myself.

I was newly blinded when I arrived back in England in September, 1915, and finished my wanderings amongst strangers at the Connaught Hospital, Aldershot. A few days later I had a visitor whose accent was evidently that of a member of what was termed the upper classes. The owner of the voice might be a hospital official or army officer so I made doubly sure of being courteous by putting in "Sir," now and then during the conversation. After the visitor left the man in the next bed had remarked tactfully that my visitor was a nice-looking old lady. I felt very foolish; my visitor was a lady with a deep voice, and I had mistaken her for a male. She understood the situation and came again many times, and I hope I rectified matters by addressing her as "Madam." She was the widow of a well-known Field Marshal.

Llandyssul.

J. E. DAVIES.

★ ★ ★

Our old friend, E. Denny, of Pretoria, had some bad luck recently. A native burglar broke into his house and got away with a great deal of his clothing, including an overcoat, sports coat, suit, etc. Mrs. Denny actually saw the burglar and ran after him, but he got away.



## A Deaf Man's Music

I have been deaf since 1917 and totally deaf for twenty-six years, and sometimes, when sitting in the Lounge, if there is some concert on, someone will say "Billy, I wish you could hear this. It is most beautiful." But for instance, when Miss Dagnall has been playing, I have been near and I get the vibrations by putting my hands on top of the piano. But I get no tone.

This may sound strange too—I do get the most beautiful music in my ears. When I was a youngster I had very keen hearing. I used to listen to water tinkling over stones. If anyone has heard the cantillion (I think that is the name, it is an Australian instrument, bells played like an organ), and took that sound with the sound of water tinkling over stones, playing "A little bit of heaven fell from out the sky one day," then they will get an idea of what a deaf man can hear.

What makes me wonder is how I can hear my own voice, but could not hear a big drum if you beat it near my head.

BILLY BELL.

## Fifty-three Years Married

We have just heard that Mr. and Mrs. I. Davidson, of Manchester, celebrated their fifty-third wedding anniversary on October 31st. Many congratulations and good wishes.

## Golden Weddings

We have only just heard that Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Booth, of Ashton-under-Lyne, celebrated their Golden Wedding on October 29th. It was attended by ten children, twenty-two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Our very best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Booth.

On January 5th, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lawlor, of Leamore, Walsall, celebrated their Golden Wedding—the day on which their son, Christopher, was married. How they celebrated this double event is described on another page. Here we will just send them our hearty congratulations.

## Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. T. Duncan, of Telscombe, January 31st. Congratulations.

## Silver Wedding

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Eustace, of Tolworth, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on February 6th.

## Family News

Sheila Read, New Haw, Surrey, has passed her Trinity College of Music examination for pianoforte playing.

Jennifer Wood, Southsea, has during the past eighteen months gained First Class certificates for the pianoforte in the Preparatory, Junior and Higher Junior examinations of the London College of Music.

Brian Lethbridge, Oldham, who is nine, played in his school cricket team in his first season.

Brian Higgs, Southfields, now working at an engineering firm, won the Second Apprenticeship prize there.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. C. E. Bolton, of Erith, and her husband, our St. Dunstaner, have suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Mrs. Bolton's brother. He collapsed and died on Southend Football Ground on January 5th. He was an old soldier and at the funeral the coffin was carried on a six-horse gun carriage.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Edith Collinge, Blackpool, on January 26th, to William Moss.

Brindley Boswell, Gainsborough, on December 22nd, to Miss M. Lambert.

Edna Roylance, Atherton, Manchester, on December 22nd, to Frank Sweeney.

Leonard McDonald, Oldham, on October 3rd.

Norman Dunwoodie, Walker, near Newcastle, on December 22nd, to Miss Georgina Bothwick.

Christopher Lawlor, Leamore, Walsall, on January 5th, to Miss Joyce Haycock.

## National Laying Test, 1956/57

Report for the third month of four weeks from December 4th to December 31st, 1956

		Score	Value
1	Bagwell, Philip ...	...	266
2	Holmes, Percy ...	...	205
3	Dix, John A. ...	...	177
3	Webb, W. ...	...	142
5	Smith, W. Alan ...	...	42

Average number of eggs per bird per month, 12.60.

Average number of eggs per bird to date, 31.17.

## Manchester Club Notes

At the Club's Annual General Meeting, held on January 11th, the following appointments were made: *President*: Mr. H. Abraham; *Chairman*: Mr. W. Bramley; *Vice-Chairman*: Mr. S. Russell; *Hon. Secretary*: Mr. J. Shaw; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. W. McCarthy. The whole of the members constitute the Committee.

The resignation of Miss E. Hill as Hon. Treasurer was received reluctantly, especially as it came earlier than had been expected, and on medical grounds. The Chairman paid tribute to Miss Hill for the very valuable services she had rendered to the Club, especially as Hon. Treasurer during the past six years. He hoped that her health might improve, and that Miss Hill would enjoy many years of happy retirement when she finished her business career later this year.

The Chairman also tendered the thanks of all the members to the ladies who had assisted as games markers, and in other ways, during the past year, and especially to Mrs. McCarthy for supervising the ladies' activities.

J. SHAW.

## The Rest of the News

Maureen Lees' exhibition of the work of the physically disabled, which was opened by the Mayor of Birkenhead proved a great success. Since then Maureen has been awarded second prize in the National Weaving Contest. She exhibited two rugs.

She is also exhibiting at the War-Disabled Exhibition at Chester, on April 11th-13th, in the Assembly Room of the Town Hall. Light refreshments will be served in an adjoining room and there is also a restaurant nearby.

★ ★ ★

W. T. Woods, of Christchurch, New Zealand, is still working a limited private practice in physiotherapy. His family—four in all—are all happily married, one living in Canada.

## Marriage

WINDRIDGE—MCINTOSH.—On February 16th, C. Windridge, of Wigston Magna, Leicester, to Mrs. McIntosh.

## "B.P." and "C.A.P."

Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, was born one hundred years ago on February 22nd. The movement itself celebrates its golden jubilee this year.

Many St. Dunstaners—if they were Scouts—will still remember with affection that absorbing Handbook, "Scouting for Boys," which "B.P." wrote, and which must have been read by boys in every country in the world; but how many realise that it was published by our own Founder, the late Sir Arthur Pearson?

We take the following from the "World's Press News" for February 22nd, 1957:—

### "B.P." Remembered

"C. Arthur Pearson, original publishers to the Boy Scout Association, were hosts to a small number of distinguished members of the movement and Press when, in B.P.'s room last week, the Hon. Robert Baden-Powell was handed a copy of his grandfather's book, 'Scouting for Boys,' by the grandson of the original publisher, Mr. Nigel Pearson.

"The occasion marked the centenary of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts movement, and the publication of the facsimile centenary edition, 'Scouting for Boys.'"

## The Braille Review

We regret that, owing to late receipt, we have not been able to include in the Braille issue of the REVIEW the above article and certain other items in this issue, namely, the letter on p. 5 from Tim Gaiger and the deaths of St. Dunstaners E. S. Hayter, F. Marsden and W. A. Bowring. They will all be printed in the next issue of the Braille REVIEW.

## Births

GOODHEAD.—On January 17th, to the wife of R. Goodhead, of Crosspool, Sheffield, a daughter.

STANLEY.—On February 13th, to the wife of G. Stanley, of Market Harborough, a daughter.



## “In Memory”

### Lance Corporal Herbert Kidger, 3rd Worcestershire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death, on February 8th, of H. Kidger, of Deal. He was 64.

A regular soldier—he had enlisted in January, 1909—he was wounded at Ypres and came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1917. He trained as a mat-maker but during the last war worked in a factory. He had, however, been ill for several years but had borne this with great courage.

He was buried on February 12th, following a solemn Requiem Mass at St. John's Church. At his request, there were no flowers, but St. Dunstan's wreath was placed on the coffin.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

### Private William A. Bowring, 1-4th Dorsetshire Regiment

With deep regret we record the death of W. A. Bowring, of Bristol, which occurred on February 11th. He was sixty.

He left the Army in July, 1919, and came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1924. He trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker, continuing with both occupations for a time. Later he did mats only until he gave up work some years ago. His health had failed in recent months.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

### L.A.C. Edward Stephen Hayter, Royal Air Force

We record with deep regret the death of E. S. Hayter, of Hounslow. He was seventy.

Discharged from the Royal Air Force in March, 1921, he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1925. He trained as a boot-repairer and continued with this work until his last illness, which began some months ago. He was admitted to hospital in November and was discharged at the beginning of January. He returned there for a further week, being discharged on February 13th, but he died at his home on February 21st.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private Frederick Marsden, 1st Border Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. Marsden, of Blackburn.

Enlisting in December, 1914, he served until May, 1916, coming to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918. He was originally trained as a boot-repairer but for many years had been occupied as a poultry farmer. He was also greatly interested in his greenhouse and beautiful garden, which was a source of great pride to him.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Marsden and her family. She and her husband had been together for sixty-three years.

### Captain Francis Marriott, C.M.G., 12th Battalion, 1st Australian Division

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Captain Francis Marriott, of Tasmania, whom many early St. Dunstaners will remember, for he was one of the first Commonwealth officers to be trained at St. Dunstan's.

“Frank” Marriott, as he was known, was blinded at Bapaume in February, 1917, and he came to St. Dunstan's later that year, where he trained as a poultry farmer. He returned to his native country in 1920 and started a distinguished political career two years later when he was first elected to the Tasmanian Legislature. He remained a member until 1946. He was Chief Commissioner for the Boy Scouts in Tasmania from 1928 to 1932, and a prominent worker for blind welfare and for Toc H, of which he was Federal President from 1931 to 1934. He received his C.M.G. in 1934, but earlier, in 1920, had the honour of being received in private audience by King George V at Windsor Castle on Anzac Day, and again at Buckingham Palace in 1926. He retired from most of his public interests in 1948.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is offered to his sons.

### M. C. McLeod and Norman Henry Spires, New Zealand Forces

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of two New Zealand comrades who, however, did not come to St. Dunstan's in this country.

M. C. McLeod, of Wellington, a Second War man, died last November after a long period of suffering. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. McLeod.

N. H. Spires, of Masterton, North Island, another Second War man, also died in November. Australian-born, he settled in New Zealand and farmed on a large scale. He died very suddenly, leaving a widow to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

ALEXANDER.—To A. E. Alexander, of Parkstone, who has just lost his only sister.

BLACKWELL.—To C. G. Blackwell, of New Tredegar, whose mother passed away on January 14th in her 82nd year.

DAVEY.—To G. R. Davey, of Hastings, who lost his wife on January 9th.

BURDEN.—To W. Burden, of Saltdean, whose brother died suddenly at Canter-

bury at the beginning of February.

Our St. Dunstaner attended the funeral, which took place at Canterbury Cathedral. The Dean, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, conducted the ceremony.

KINDER.—To T. Kinder, of Knotty Ash, Liverpool, whose wife died on December 2nd.

WHITE.—To J. D. White, of Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, whose grandmother died in November.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## WAR PENSIONS

**A**S we go to press, arrangements are being finalised for the deputation which is to visit the Minister of Pensions on March 20th.

Sir Ian Fraser told the annual conference of the Metropolitan Area of the British Legion on February 23rd that for the first time, the great majority of ex-servicemen's organisations had added their voices to that of the Legion. The eighteen societies involved included the best known in the land—those with large memberships, as well as specialist organisations dealing with important sections of the severely disabled. They were the British Legion, the Royal Signals Association, the Royal Air Force Association, the Royal Marines Association, St. Dunstan's, the Officers' Association, the Old Contemptibles Association, the Royal Naval Association, the Ex-Services Welfare Society, the Royal Artillery Association, the Burma Star Association, the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, the National Federation of Far Eastern Prisoners of War Clubs and Associations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, the Pathfinder Association, the Dunkirk Veterans Association, and the Association of Wrens.

These eighteen organisations had agreed a pensions programme which they would put before the Minister when their deputation met him on March 20th.

They would ask that the basic rate should be raised to a figure of not less than 90s. a week, with proportionate increases for those with lesser degrees of disability, and also increases for war widows.

Sir Ian said that in his opinion the country's economy had not been so damaged by recent events as some thought. "The process of deflation," he said, "may suddenly produce a situation in which the Government will find it possible, and even necessary, to release some money for consumption. This may take the form of tax remissions, but it will most certainly also include improvements in the conditions of pensioners generally. That is why I consider the forthcoming Legion year one of the most important in our history."



## Mr. Tom Watson Retires

St. Dunstan's loses another old and valued member of the staff at the end of the month. Mr. Tom Watson, Head Hall Porter at Headquarters, retires after thirty-seven years' service.

After a long career in the Army, in the course of which he was awarded the D.C.M. and bar, and the Croix de Guerre, he came to us in 1920 immediately upon his discharge. He was first at the Bungalow, then at Cornwall Terrace, and later at St. John's Lodge. During the 1939-45 war, he moved wherever Headquarters moved and all St. Dunstaners who have ever had occasion to visit us will remember his typical London welcome and his ready help and advice.

Tom Watson is a grand "old soldier" and he will be missed by the many friends he has made among St. Dunstaners themselves and by his colleagues on the staff. They will all wish him the very best of luck and many years of well-earned retirement.

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Mr. Watson is being succeeded as Head Hall Porter by another ex-regular soldier. He is Mr. R. May who left the Army, after twenty-five year's service, with the rank of W.O.2 in R.E.M.E. Mr. May has already worked with Mr. Watson for some time.

## Camp—Lee-on-Solent

**Friday, August 9th to Saturday 17th.**

I have wonderful news for all campers—once again we have been invited to the Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, from Friday, August 9th to Saturday 17th.

This is the 13th camp at Lee. When we were invited to Seafeld Park in 1945 I don't think that any of us dared to hope we should still be going there in 1957.

I know you will all agree that the Navy have been wonderful to us. I would like to say to all of you—"Well, you have done it again—for you always make yourselves welcome wherever you go."

Let me have your entries as soon as possible.

Camp fee payable in camp, 25s. Fares over £1 repaid.

A. SPURWAY,  
Vicarage, Holmwood,

Dorking 73191.

Dorking.

## Reunions—1957

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>
April 6th	Windsor ( <i>Guildford</i> )
April 11th	Maidstone
May 8th	Blackpool ( <i>Liverpool</i> )
May 10th	Chester
May 11th	Manchester
May 21st	Edinburgh ( <i>Glasgow</i> )
May 23rd	Newcastle
May 25th	Leeds ( <i>Doncaster and Harrogate</i> )
June 1st	Bournemouth
June 4th	Plymouth
June 15th	Bristol
June 21st	Cardiff
June 25th	Belfast
June 27th	Dublin
July 6th	Luton
July 10th	Ipswich
July 12th	Nottingham
July 13th	Birmingham
September 6th	London ( <i>Evening Function</i> )
October 2nd	Brighton ( <i>Evening Function</i> )

## Thirty Years Ago

On March 26th, St. Dunstan's will be forty-two years old. We take the following from the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW for March, 1927:

Sir Arthur Pearson

*An Appreciation*

*Remorseless Time sweeps on, great Chief,  
unchecked,*

*Unceasing life flows on its wondrous way.*

*Whilst we, by you our world made bright and gay,  
Renew the common round which once seemed  
wrecked.*

*You were our guiding star—our beacon light,  
Your smiling courage banished all our fears;  
And yet, great Chief, you were not young in years,  
When battling with the darkness of your night.  
But let that pass; we like to think that you,  
Not only leader were, but friend besides,  
And raised a countless host of friends as true  
As you, and kindly, gratitude resides  
Within the hearts of those you served and led—  
And, leading, gave back Life when Life seemed  
dead.*

W. V. CLAMPETT.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—Will those who have not yet sent in their names for the Harrogate Week—September 7th—14th—do so as soon as possible. We shall be staying at the Dirlton and the terms are 27s. per day inclusive.

In the final placings of the London Business Houses League our team finished third in their section.

## St. Dunstan's Twelve Mile Handicap Walk

### for the "James Galloway Trophy" and Match with the Metropolitan Police

Order of Finish	Act. Time	H'cp. All	H'cp. Time	Pos. in H'cp.
1. F. Freeman	M.P. 111-45			
2. J. Holding	M.P. 112-05			
3. L. Soame	M.P. 113-02			
4. W. Miller	St.D. 113-04	Scr.	113-04	4
5. A. Brown	St.D. 115-24	3-00	112-24	2
6. C. Williamson	St.D. 116-11	3-30	112-41	3
7. G. Hewitt	St.D. 119-35	8-00	111-35	1
8. R. Youldon	M.P. 129-20			
9. C. Stafford	St.D. 134-32	16-00	118-32	5
Match Result—1st, Metropolitan Police, 14 points.				
2nd, St. Dunstan's, 22 points.				

## Our Friends the Police

On Wednesday, February 28th, Sir Ian was the Guest of Honour at the Annual Dinner of the Metropolitan Police Association's Walking Section, held at the Euston Tavern in Euston Road.

Responding to the toast to The Guests, Sir Ian told them how deeply St. Dunstan's walkers were indebted to the police for their guidance and help over so many years.

Among those present were our two St. Dunstan's walkers, Archie Brown and Billy Miller, and also P.C Fred Duff who, together with Archie Brown, last year walked to Brighton and back—over 100 miles in just under twenty-four hours—both thus becoming Centurions.

## Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Sanson, of Colyton, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on March 14th, and to Mr. and Mrs. Yarwood, of Wythenshawe, Manchester, whose anniversary was on March 16th.

## Silver Weddings

Congratulations, too, to the following, who are celebrating their Silver Wedding anniversaries:

Mr. and Mrs. D. Taylor, of Swindon, January 23rd; Mr. and Mrs. G. Brooks, of Bedford, February 27th.

## 1957 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Wednesday, June 5th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. *No other person can enter.*

Please read the following rules carefully

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Friday, May 24th.** Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required, and must be sent to the Editor, St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and not loose money unless it is registered. *Tickets will be issued consecutively.*

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 30th, and all those drawing horses will be notified.

## Ovingdean News

Madame Vacani paid her second visit to Ovingdean on Monday, March 4th, to continue the "Rock 'n' Roll" class. Lady Fraser also paid one of her routine visits to the Home at the same time.

## Placements

F. Sunderland, as an audio-typist with United Dairies Ltd., Kensal Rise, N.W.10; L. E. Tanner, of Wimbledon, as a capstan lathe operator with the Morden Tool and Gauge Co., Ltd.

## Fisherman

R. Gadsby, of Leeds, one of our keenest fishermen, has just landed a pike weighing 16lbs.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

In connection with Mrs. Richardson's letter of appreciation, I should like to endorse her remarks.

My husband was tended by the doctor and nursing staff at Ovingdean whilst on holiday in January.

He cannot express his thanks or appreciation sufficiently to Matron and the Staff for the excellent treatment he received.

Will you please publish this to tell of our grateful thanks to all our kind friends at Ovingdean who make our holidays such happy events, and, if necessary, for my husband to have medical attention whilst there. That also becomes much less tedious in the hands of such efficient and human people. Thanks a lot, Ovingdean.

Yours sincerely, CELIA L. FARNLEY.

DEAR EDITOR,

I should like to second Maureen Lees' suggestion for the removal of the earnings limit for the totally disabled who are also totally unemployable and receiving the supplementary. It is not entirely the desire to earn unlimited kudos but that feeling of irritation when completion of the permitted quota leaves one with nothing either constructive or remunerative to do. Maureen has formerly emphasised the need to develop other interests and for varying reasons. We cannot all be gardeners or fill in the blanks with club or other associations. I am speaking as one of the out-back, one from the Far West, for here we have not clubs. I am a Buff but there is no Lodge nearer than fifteen miles. I am a member of the British Legion but our local branch opens once a week for whist drive and committee, and the "local" is the only place where one can relax and they are too full of their darts and skittles leagues to create an interest for one who for various handicaps, cannot engage in either. How one envies the London Club, the Liverpool Club, Brighton Club, etc., of which the REVIEW regularly informs us.

So I say, if the rehabilitated in professions and trades are free to earn full wages and salaries and can indulge in one of the hobbies taught by the handicrafts, surely the totally unemployables are not likely to upset anybody's applecart if their earnings were allowed to provide full-time, if leisurely occupation?

Castle Cary.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD.

## Well-known Australian St. Dunstan Retires

In January last, H. Gilbert Nobbs, O.B.E., retired from the Board of Directors of Holbrooks, Australia, after a lifetime spent with the company. He has also retired from the Repatriation Welfare War-blinded Committee, on which he had served as Chairman since its formation fifteen years ago.

After the First World War, Captain Nobbs returned to Holbrook's in London; later he was sent to Australia where he organised and developed the Australian company so that within a few years it was one of the largest units in Holbrook's world-wide enterprise.

He became Chairman of the Repatriation Welfare War-blinded Committee and was responsible for organising and caring for the war-blinded Australians of the Second World War. It was for this work that he was awarded the honour of O.B.E. His book, published in 1951, and entitled, "Blinded but Unbeaten" told the story of the training and placement of blinded soldiers and recalled much of the spirit of the St. Dunstan's of the early days.

In spite of these retirements from his main activities, Captain Nobbs' life is a full and busy one for he is still associated with many sporting and charitable organisations.

## St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles

Those of you who had filled in your application forms to register as St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles may have been inclined to think that the matter ended when my notes failed to appear in ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW for October, 1955. I would like you boys to know that we are still going strong, and to keep in touch with each other we have our own magazine, *Calling All Chums*, a copy of which will be sent to you each month upon hearing from you. There is no charge for the magazine, and I shall be indeed happy to hear from as many of you boys as would like to have the magazine, and join in our annual get-together.

It was indeed an unfortunate mistake that I was not able to continue using the REVIEW, but *Calling All Chums* has filled the bill since November, 1955, and is sent out monthly to all St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles who would like to have it.

Send your address to me: Alan Nichols, Chairman of St. Dunstan's Old Contemptibles, 97 Mile Oak Road, Portslade, Sussex.

## National Library for the Blind

E. W. Austin

### Memorial Reading Competition

The Twenty-eighth E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, 1st June, 1957.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has graciously consented to be present at the finals to be held at the Assembly Hall, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1., at 3 p.m. that afternoon. All seats will be reserved and admission will be by ticket only.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will be awarded only if merited).

Here are the Classes of interest to St. Dunstaners:—

*Class A.* Advanced readers in competition for the Blansburgh Cup.

*Class B.* Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

*Class C.* Readers who have lost their sight since 1938 and who have learnt to read Braille since the age of 16 (and who do not fell competent to enter the more advanced classes). (Entrants for this Class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

*Medal Competition.* A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B and to all previous winners of the Open, Medal and Classes A, B. and C. A medal will be awarded to the winner of this Class.

*Class D. (Moon).* Open to readers of Moon type. (Entrants for this Class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon.)

*Class E. (Deaf-Blind Readers).* Open to blind readers of Braille who are also deaf. (Entrants for this Class will not read in the afternoon but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

Intending competitors should send their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1., not later than Friday, 17th May, 1957, stating which Class they wish to enter.

## Manchester Club Notes

At a meeting of the Club held on the 8th March, the opportunity was taken of marking the appreciation of the members to Miss Hill for her services to the Club generally, and especially in the capacity of Hon. Treasurer. It was a tribute in itself that every member and his wife or escort contributed to the presentation fund which it had been decided to open, and everyone contributed equally. To the total subscribed, Mr. W. McCarthy provided a seagrass stool of his own making.

In making the presentation, Mr. W. Bramley, the Chairman, spoke of the admirable services rendered to the Club by Miss Hill; always up-to-date with Club affairs, and with a helping hand at every turn, yet all the time maintaining a charming modesty.

Miss Hill received the tokens and said how happy she had always been to help the Club. She had felt the break, but she disclosed that she was feeling better since she had eased up on her many activities.

Will everyone concerned please note that the Club meetings during April will be on the 5th and the 26th.

J. SHAW.

## B.B.C. Sound Programmes

There has been correspondence recently in the *Times* concerning the various programmes of the B.B.C. These letters culminated in a leading article on February 22nd. On February 26th, in the course of a letter to the editor of the *Times*, Sir Ian Fraser wrote:

"It is clear that limited resources must pay for sound and television; the latter being costly in itself and more expensive still because of healthy competition from Independent Television. In this scramble sound may suffer. May I plead for the 100,000 blind people, the hundreds of thousands of old people who do not see very well, and the poor and the old-fashioned who cannot or do not want to afford television? They also serve and deserve to be remembered, and they love their familiar voices and programmes."

## Author

Michael Tetley is the author of a short story, entitled *Leopard Platoon*, which appears in the April issue of the *Argosy* magazine.



## Talking Book Library

### Dam Busters of March, 1957

Sixteen books broke through the bottleneck this month, which which I can but do my sketchy best hereunder.

"Love for Lydia," by H. E. Bates, reader Franklin Engelmann, is a country town romance with Lydia, the "at first" shy, and then gay and malicious tyrant to the narrator, the faithful friend, who finally collects and restores the heroine's poor little broken pieces for himself.—*Cat. No. 964.*

"Charles Dickens," by V. Pope Hennessey, reader Eric Gillett, is, I believe, self-explanatory.—*Cat. No. 962.*

"Elizabeth and the Prince of Spain," by Margaret Irwin, reader Arthur Bush, is an account of Elizabeth's relationship with Philip when he came to England to marry "broody" Mary.—*Cat. No. 169.*

"The Odyssey," by Homer, readers L. Marson and A. Bush, portrays the travels of Ulysses on his way home from Troy.—*Cat. No. 107.*

"The Governor's Wife," by David Unwin, reader Peter Fettes, is a story of unrest in a British African Protectorate where all would be well except for an unsympathetic neighbouring Republic. It is a study of the social life out there and the stress and folly of rioting to right doubtful grievances. Love and liquor figure, too, in the story.—*Cat. No. 104.*

"Sleeping Beauty," by Elizabeth Taylor, reader Jean Metcalfe, is an apt title for a yarn whose heroine withdrew into her shell after a motor crash disfigured her, until the hero, Sebastian, found her, winkled her out, and carried her off. Proper sheikh stuff and a little innocent bigamy!—*Cat. No. 99.*

"Through Lands of the Bible," by H. V. Morton, reader Alvar Liddell, is in line with the author's "In search of . . ." series, is a pleasant travel book covering a vast area, and good though it is, personally I found it a fraction too long.—*Cat. No. 95.*

"This Fascinating Animal World," by Alan Devoe, reader Alvar Liddell, cannot fail to appeal to all "animalisers," and there is much to be learned from such books unless, of course, they happen to be written by anglers!—*Cat. No. 97.*

"Married to Adventure," by Jule Manix, reader Andrew Timothy, is quite a story. Training an eagle to hunt iguana in Mexico whilst living with it in a small New York apartment is but one of the honeymoon raptures.—*Cat. No. 31.*

"Grain of the Wood," by Michael Home, reader Stephen Jack, has a warm, unsophisticated Norfolk setting. Ted Burling starts from scratch as a youngster and builds up a fine business and reputation as an antique dealer. The ups and downs and twists in the story make entertaining reading.—*Cat. No. 60.*

"Journeying Boy," by Michael Innes, reader Robin Holmes, is the story of a problem child, son of a wealthy, eminent scientist who is a widower. A tutor is hired to take the boy on holiday to Ireland where, amidst fighting, kidnapping and shooting and fire, they prove themselves a couple of stalwarts.—*Cat. No. 961.*

### Other Titles

"Romans, Hebrews, and Thessalonians," reader Andrew Timothy.—*Cat. No. 76.*

"Against Whom," by Phyllis Bottome, reader Timothy Brinton.—*Cat. No. 59.*

"House of Mirth," by Edith Wharton, reader Robert Gladwell.—*Cat. No. 19.*

"Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft," by George Gissing, reader Norman Shelley.—*Cat. No. 90.*

Excerpts from "The Merchant of Venice," by William Shakespeare, read by an anonymous cast.—*Cat. No. 15.*

"NELSON."

## Doing What Can't Be Done

Mr. Ben Sutton, an old soldier of the First World War, who is blind and deaf, and, although not a St. Dunstaner, is a reader of the Braille REVIEW, writes:

"There are two things in particular in this world that give me a pain—fried garlic and dogmatism. Of the two abominations, give me fried garlic. 'Dogmatism,' according to Webster's dictionary, is 'a doctrinal notion asserted without regard to evidence or truth.' That's the kind of dogmatism I'm writing about.

"Many intelligent readers of past middle age can recall instances of dogmatising about what is impossible. It was the same

with the coming of the railway, the telegraph, the telephone, electric light, the talking machine, the submarine, the motor car, moving pictures, the aeroplane and now radio and television.

"Those who stand around proclaiming that such and such a thing can never be done are likely the next moment to be elbowed out of the way by someone who is doing that very same thing. All the real doers the world has ever known have been men and women who believed in the possibility of doing what they wanted to do.

"Mount Everest was never conquered by standing at its base and staring up at its peak."

### The Ballad of the Bang!

(The following doggerel records an incident among the elderly children at Ovingdean; one of whom was—

Yours sincerely,

TIM GAIGER,  
Devizes.)

*With dainty tread and lissome grace,  
The soft-toned Sister took her place  
Beside the tea-break barrow.  
Then read in accents firm and clear  
The list of names for all to hear  
(This is our weekly harrow).*

*All unaware of fate impending,  
She smoothly read in voice ascending  
Whilst Tommy crept behind her.  
In hand he held a huge balloon;  
It burst a moment not too soon.  
Poor Sister! Could we find her.*

*As Matron heard that thunderous sound,  
She cleared the counter in a bound.  
It was for self-protection!  
With blazing eye and flushing cheek,  
The wrathful Sister turned to seek  
The cause of this defection.*

*Her gaze alighted on a youth;  
He guiltless as a babe, forsooth!  
And him she called by name.  
But the impish grin on Tommy's face  
Soon brought about his dire disgrace  
And fettered him in shame.*

*And Tommy doing what he didn't oughter,  
Was sent to bed on bread and water.*

TIM ANDAL.

### Family News

Mrs. A. H. Robinson, of Rayleigh, has lost her father.

★ ★ ★

Dorothy Cole, Lower Tuffley, Gloucester, came second in the Music Festival held by Lower Tuffley Community Centre. Many singers from the surrounding districts competed.

### Sons' and Daughters' Marriages

Barbara Jean Patience, Croydon, on February 16th to Brian Willey.

Sheila MacDonald, Oldham, on February 23rd.

Barbara Rutter, Eccles, Manchester, to William Booth on February 23rd—two days before her 21st birthday.

Henry Bowring, Bristol, was married on February 9th but owing to the sad loss of his father on February 13th, the honeymoon was cancelled.

Hazel Cole, Lower Tuffley, on January 21st, by special licence.

### Grandfathers

J. Stibbles, of Pitlochry; G. H. Richards, of Manchester (for the fourth time); L. W. Calvert, of Southport (the eleventh grand-child); A. H. Dembenski, of Cheltenham (two grand-sons and a grand-daughter since August); F. Stew, of Shuthonger, Glos. (a grandson and grand-daughter within the last month).

### The Rest of the News

G. Eustace, of Tolworth, a keen accordionist, has passed his examination with 87% marks and a Certificate of Merit.

★ ★ ★

When the Lord Mayor of Leeds entertained the Social Services of the City at a Reception on March 1st, our St. Dunstaner, Ernest Russell, was chosen to represent his Department. Mr. Russell is with the Entertainments and Building Department.

★ ★ ★

W. Hare, of Cheltenham, is Vice-Chairman of the Cheltenham Branch of Toc-H.

★ ★ ★

E. V. Barwick, of Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, is, in his own words, a poor correspondent and therefore it was a special pleasure to have a long, interesting letter from him last month. In it he gave a detailed description of life and conditions in Tasmania, and of the countryside covering thousands of miles.



## "In Memory"

Private Harry Bray, *Welch Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Bray, of Wythenshawe, Manchester. He served with the regiment from April, 1917, until his discharge in 1919 and came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1924. He was trained as a mat-maker and netter but entered industry during the last war and was with his firm, the Coventry Chain Company, on inspection work for fifteen years.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and her family. (The eldest daughter is in Australia).

Private William Judd, *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Judd, of Hillingdon. He was fifty-eight. He left the Army in November, 1919, and came to us in January, 1924. He trained as a basket-maker and worked at this craft up to his last illness, apart from a break during the war when he did factory work. On March 5th he was admitted to hospital and he died there on March 13th.

To his widow and her family our deepest sympathy is offered.

### Births

DAVIS.—On March 7th, to the wife of R. G. Davis, of Hounslow, a daughter.  
FOWLER.—On February 22nd, to the wife of S. J. Fowler, of Beeston, a son—John Stanley.

PAGE.—On February 11th, to the wife of L. R. Page, of Hove, a son—Ian Reginald.

SHORTER.—On March 17th, to the wife of J. Shorter, of Shortgate, near Lewes, a daughter—Penelope Ann.

### Marriage

LOOMIS-CASHEL.—On February 20th, G. Loomis, of Cricklewood, to Mrs. Cashel.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

DREW.—To A. Drew, of Moston Lane, Manchester, whose only sister died on March 3rd.

HAROLD.—To T. A. Harold, of Harold Wood, Romford, whose brother has died.

HEXT.—To E. Hext, of Curry Rivel, Somerset, who has suffered a double bereavement by the death of a sister in January and a brother in February.

HUTCHINGS.—To C. Hutchings, of Sutton, Surrey, whose wife died suddenly on February 28th.

KEMPSTER.—To J. Kempster, of Hemel Hempstead, who has had a further bereavement by the death of another brother. He has lost two brothers and three sisters since last September.

NOLAN.—To Mr. and Mrs. J. Nolan, of Acton, whose little daughter, Susan, died on March 12th, at the age of three months.

### My Friendly Stream

*In slumber deep, enriched by dream,  
I traverse slope to friendly stream,  
It sings to dyke now crisp with winter's frown,  
It kisses willow roots and reeds of brown.  
It trips and chants o'er rock and pebble bed,  
And then reclines in tranquil pools ahead,  
Where once it mirrored banks of radiant hue,  
With meadow sweet and forget-me-nots of blue.  
But now the pools reflect a changing scene,  
For all is withered, gone the beauteous greens,  
And moody nature demonstrates her might,  
And shrouds the dying things with frosty white.  
The sun then peeps through fleeting clouds of grey,  
To glorify this artistry with golden ray,  
And in its glancing smile a moment now so rare,  
Robes the Earth in splendour with Jewels that  
beggars share.*

*The pools then swell and overflow with pride,  
Onward, onward o'er pebble bed to ride,  
By fir 'neath stony bridge past poplars tall,  
By oak and ash, through hollied arch, down  
waterfall.*

*A spray leaps forth as though in joyous fun,  
A shower of pearls kissed by a fitful Sun,  
To cascade forth, on sandy bed it dies,  
To spring to life again its choirs to harmonize.  
Then solitude and quiet for now its race is done,  
Its energies are spent and rest must surely come,  
To seek a pond and creep 'neath Winter's icy  
cloak,  
And there will sleep till roused by Nature's  
hungry folk.*

RONALD SMITH,  
*Seaford.*

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 447—VOLUME XL

APRIL, 1957

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**H**OW would you choose books for the blind to read? I do not mean how would you choose a book for yourself, because that would depend upon your individual taste; but I mean how would you set about choosing for all the blind people who read Braille or who listen to the 'Talking Book'?

You might answer that there is no difference between this question and the question "How would you choose books for a library for the general public?"

I would agree with this answer in so far as it indicates that the tastes, intelligence, education and experience of blind people are generally no different from those of other people; and, indeed, I feel sure most of us favour the view that we are, so far as possible, normal people. But there are some special limitations which must be taken into account. The first is that the cost of making Braille and Talking Books is a very heavy one indeed for the organisations for the blind to meet out of their resources, and consequently the number of books must be severely limited. We simply cannot afford to Braille or record thousands of detective stories, hundreds of travel books, and so on. Like the man who is told that he is going to be marooned on a desert island, and that he may have a small box of books, we have got to choose what might be called samples from the great store of literature, old and new. The next limitation is that we read slowly. Braille from twenty to one hundred words a minute for the ordinary St. Dunstaner (although I know one or two experts can do two hundred); and for Talking Books, say 150—200 words a minute. It may surprise you to know that sighted persons read two or three hundred words a minute, and, if they are skilled, say a sub-editor or trained barrister, perhaps four or five hundred words a minute. Then we cannot easily skip. Lastly, it is physically convenient to have a Braille book which goes into not more than two or three volumes, as a short novel does, rather than a Dickens, or a Scott, which may go into a dozen; and as far as the Talking Book is concerned, it is convenient if the book will go into one container or two. So, on the whole, short books suit us best.

We must, I think, exclude books which would only interest a very few people, however hard it is on them, and we must try to include books which will have as wide an appeal as possible.

I would add one other test, namely, for Braille. The writing should be as concise as possible so that the immense trouble which we take to pick up the words with our fingers is rewarded, because the words themselves are worth while; and so far as the Talking Book



is concerned, that it should be easy on the ear, which excludes, in my opinion, unfamiliar accents or awkward styles of writing.

I think a good guide should be the day-to-day demand on a popular circulating library, such as Boots' Lending Library, coupled with the limitations I have mentioned above and the opinions of readers over many years.

Personally, I would like some of the great books of the past as well as some of the long books of to-day condensed for me. I would feel that I was getting an insight into more books by that means even though I may lose a passage here and there which I might have liked. To adapt the old phrase, what the finger hasn't felt or the ear hasn't heard the mind cannot grieve about.

I am sure it would help the Committee which chooses books to know what St. Dunstaners think, so if you feel like it, write to the Editor.

IAN FRASER.

### **The Derby Sweepstake**

As announced last month, applications can now be received for tickets in our Derby Sweepstake. Once again you are reminded that only St. Dunstaners can hold tickets and prizes will not be paid to any other person.

The closing date is Friday, May 24th. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each, and are obtainable only from the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. The draw will take place at the London Club on Thursday evening, May 30th.

### **Lee-on-Solent Camp**

This is a reminder that we have again been invited to the Royal Naval Barracks, Lee-on-Solent, from **Friday, August 9th, to Saturday, August 17th.**

Camp fee, payable in camp, 25s. Fares over £1 repaid.

Entries should be sent to me as soon as possible and in any case not later than **Monday, May 6th.**

A. SPURWAY.

### **Miss Wilson's Presentation Fund**

Miss Wilson's many St. Dunstaner friends will be glad to know that contributions have come in well and she is being consulted as to the gift she would like to have to remind her of her years at St. Dunstan's.

The presentation is being arranged to take place at the Leeds Reunion, where probably the largest number of St. Dunstaners from the Northern Area will be present. We shall invite one man, to be chosen by ballot, from each Welfare Visitor's area in the North, to come to Leeds for the presentation, though we are hoping that Miss Wilson will be able to attend one or two of the other Reunions as well.

A. D. LLOYDS.

### **M.A.**

Many congratulations to D. E. Williams, of Brisbane, Australia, who has completed his studies at Queensland University, securing his M.A. Degree and a Credit in Political Science III. Our St. Dunstaner was a prisoner of war in Malaya and he took up his studies at Queensland University five years ago.

### **Municipal Election Candidates**

Roy Crompton has been formally adopted as Conservative candidate to contest the Moston Ward in the forthcoming municipal elections, and Micky Burns has been nominated as prospective Liberal candidate to contest the Chalkwell Ward of Southend.

### **Married 58 Years**

On March 26th, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bentley of Finchley, London, N.12, celebrated the 58th anniversary of their wedding. Our congratulations to them. Mr. and Mrs. Bentley have ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

### **Married 43 Years**

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Markwick, of North Moulscombe, Brighton, who on April 4th, celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary.

### **Ruby Wedding**

We much regret that we have only now been notified of the Ruby Wedding on July 11th last of Mr. and Mrs. S. Game, of Lydford, near Okehampton. We send our delayed but nevertheless very sincere congratulations to them.

### **Silver Wedding**

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Nicholson, of Beeston, Notts., on March 26th. Congratulations.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—Have you sent in your name for the Harrogate Week? If not, please do so as soon as possible.

**St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Championship Walk and Match with the Metropolitan Police.**

**Regent's Park, Saturday, March 23rd, 1957**

<i>Order of Finish</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Allow H'cp.</i>	<i>Pos. Time in H'cp.</i>
1. W. Symes	M.P.	62:38		
2. W. Miller	St. D.	62:50	Scr.	62:50 5
3. C. Williamson	St. D.	66:28	5:15	61:13 2
4. A. Brown	St. D.	66:34	4:15	62:19 3
5. G. Hewitt	St. D.	67:56	5:30	62:26 4
6. R. Hopper	M.P.	68:23		
7. J. Robinson	M.P.	68:43		
8. P. Collins	M.P.	69:15		
9. W. Young	M.P.	69:17		
10. T. Gaygan	St. D.	69:25	10:30	58:55 1
11. H. Lightwing	M.P.	70:05		
12. S. Tutton	St. D.	70:15	7:00	64:15 6
13. C. Stafford	St. D.	75:25	11:00	64:25 7
Result of Match: 1st, St. Dunstan's. Points 36.				
2nd, Met. Police. Points 42.				

## The Shell Mex Party

St. Dunstaners employed as telephonists at Shell Mex, Ltd., were again the guests of the Company at a party on March 19th. A feature of the evening was the presentation to Mr. Scaife of a space heater.

Sir Neville Pearson, our President, performed the presentation, saying in the course of his remarks, "It is more than twenty years since St. Dunstan's came into the Shell business, and only last year that the last St. Dunstaner joined. It shows that the Shell business is not entirely dissatisfied . . ." Sir Neville paid tribute to Mr. Scaife's sympathetic and enthusiastic help.

Mr. Scaife, in his reply, said there were two things which should not be forgotten. One was that it was the late Mr. Ernest Fidler who was responsible for these gatherings from their inception, and whose idea it was, and secondly, that they enjoyed having St. Dunstan's men there.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended the first part of the proceedings and the party then went on to a theatre.

Two St. Dunstaners were meeting for the first time since they were in training together at Church Stretton in 1944. They were Harry Petty, now of Leeds, and Jim Blackwell, now living in Bridgwater, Somerset.

Mr. Lloyds and Mr. Wills were also among those present.

## Liverpool Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 23rd, when members and their wives or escorts, numbering thirty-two, were present. The President, Capt. E. Halloway, opened the meeting with a survey of the Club's activities over the past year, and expressed his delight with the enthusiasm shown by all members and the ready and whole-hearted support given to the various enterprises conducted by the Club. He also had a special word of thanks for the ladies, who not only managed our catering but were always willing to assist in every way possible. He went on to refer to the grand work done by Mr. H. Formstone, who, ever since the inception of the Club, has been responsible for organising Club tournaments and competitions, and extended to him our sincere thanks.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Blakeley, after endorsing Captain Halloway's remarks, added his own personal thanks. The Statement of Accounts was then read and unanimously agreed to. The election of the new Committee was then proceeded with. This was done by ballot and resulted as follows:—

*President*: Capt. E. Halloway; *Chairman*: Mr. J. Blakeley; *Vice-Chairman*: Mr. E. Cooper; *Hon. Secretary*: Mr. T. Milner; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. T. Kinder. *Other Committee Members*: Miss E. Aldred, Mrs. V. Formstone, Mr. G. H. Matthews and Mr. J. C. Owen.

The proceedings having been concluded, we settled down to enjoy tea and refreshments, kindly provided by the ladies.

T. MILNER,

*Hon. Secretary.*

\* \* \*

H. Goodley, of Pulham Market, has again won first prize for hyacinths at Diss Blind Social. This is his fifth first prize for hyacinths.

He also thinks he holds a record or two. He has a cyclamen, ten years old, which has always been pure white. This year it has seventeen white flowers and one mauve one placed centrally.

He also has a broccoli plant, waist high, which has a very large head, and two rings of smaller ones about the size of tea cups. Six are in the first ring, eight in the other. Is this a record?



## Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Whilst talking to a friend a few days ago about St. Dunstan's, I was telling her how we St. Dunstan's men were trained, and the different subjects and trades that were taught. Then I said "Have you ever seen the place?" She said "Yes, I passed it on the 'bus last summer, and I saw a lot of men outside playing golf, which I thought was very clever."

Well, I had to tell her that we were not quite so clever as that and we both had a jolly good laugh.

Yours sincerely,

Hastings.

GEORGE JESSUP.

[There is a golf course a very short distance from Ovingdean].

## Manchester Club Notes

We are sorry to report the resignation from the Club of Mrs. L. W. Lang, of Bowdon, Cheshire.

Mrs. Lang has concerned herself with the activities of St. Dunstaners in the Manchester area for more than twenty years, and when the Club, as we now know it, was established in 1948, she was appointed its Chairman, a post which she held until August, 1950, when she became Vice-Chairman, and held this post for the next three years. From 1953 until March, 1956, she attended Club functions and meetings regularly, and rendered valuable services in connection with Club matters generally.

On March 9th, 1956, she was appointed the Club's first President, in recognition of her long and varied services.

The members have placed on record their appreciation of all the good work that Mrs. Lang has done for the Club, and have conveyed their good wishes to her.

At her own request, there was no presentation, but we all hope that Mrs. Lang may retain many happy memories of her associations with our organisation.

J. SHAW, *Secretary*.

## Mr. T. Watson

Several St. Dunstaners have written to me suggesting that those who have known Mr. Watson for a number of years might like to subscribe to a presentation fund for him upon his retirement. Will any St. Dunstaners desiring to do so please send their contributions to me at Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

A. D. LLOYDS.

## Unemployability Supplement The "Earnings Rule"

In view of the correspondence we have lately printed on the subject of the so-called "earnings rule" and the unemployability allowance, the following passage from a letter written by the Rt. Hon. J. Boyd Carpenter, Minister of Pensions, to Sir Ian Fraser may be of interest.

The British Legion, in a deputation introduced by Sir Ian, had included this item amongst their claims, and our Chairman had also written personally to the Minister about it. In his reply the Minister said:

"The question whether the earnings limits that are attached to certain social service benefits deter disabled people from working at home is one of the matters which, I understand, has been under consideration by Lord Piercy's Committee of Enquiry on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons. I am sure you will agree that it would be most advisable for us to have the Committee's recommendations before reaching a final conclusion on the subject.

"I think, however, that I should say straight away that the £52 a year figure is not in fact an 'earnings rule' in the sense of that applicable under the National Insurance Scheme to persons who reach retirement pension age but carry on in employment. For the pensioner who qualifies for the unemployability supplement there is unfortunately no question of employment in the ordinary sense of the word, but there can arise a very important question of occupational therapy and it is really in that context that the proviso in the Royal Warrant has to be considered. When the earnings figure was introduced, it was mainly with the intention that the unemployable pensioner should not be discouraged, through fear of losing the supplement, from engaging in activities, for example, of a homecraft nature which might earn him a little money. But the limit is a test of unemployability—not an earnings limit.

"The £52 is a *net* figure and is most flexibly applied. Enquiries are not made weekly into the earnings of a pensioner receiving the supplement, and he is not disqualified from receiving it in any week in which he earns more than £1. Our concern is with his average net earnings over a year, for it is realised that there may be many weeks in which he may be able to earn much less than £1 a week, and even nothing at all.

"The experience of the Department has been that when a seriously disabled war pensioner is able to earn more than £52 a year, he is usually able to earn considerably more, in which case, of course, he ceases to satisfy the conditions of unemployability for which the supplement was intended. And as regards those pensioners receiving the supplement, who are engaged on home crafts, recent enquiries of our local offices have confirmed that these pensioners' earnings rarely approach the £52 a year figure.

"On the evidence I have at present, therefore—and my mind is by no means closed on the subject—I do not feel that an amendment of the Royal Warrant to increase the £52 a year figure is really called for."

### From All Quarters

Jock Macfarlane, of Ilford, had a new experience on April 2nd when, as Chairman of the Telephonists' Grade Committee of the Civil Service Union, he led a deputation to the Treasury. He has received the congratulations of the Secretary of the Union on the activities of his Committee.

★ ★ ★

J. H. Burton, of Fareham, and Mrs. Burton are members of the "Peter Pan Club" (all over sixty) and they visit organisations giving concerts. In February they gave one at Lee-on-Solent to the "Over 60's Club," with an invitation to go again. Their March programme was also a full one.

★ ★ ★

W. Griffiths, of Blackburn, gained 83 out of a possible 100 for singing at Burnley Musical Festival. The winner had 88. Our St. Dunstaner, who is a baritone, was complimented by the Adjudicator, Michael Head, upon his singing.

★ ★ ★

Jack McGill, of Auckland, New Zealand, writes that life goes on much the same. His garden keeps him busy. He lives in a house on a peninsula and when he wrote he said that Sir Anthony and Lady Eden were to stay in a house just across the water.

★ ★ ★

D. B. Elrod, of Sheffield, tells us that his guide dog, Dianna, appeared in a B.B.C. Television programme on April 6th, which featured the training of guide dogs.

### Round Africa

by H. GOVER

My wife and I left London on the *Braemar Castle* on January 16th for the round trip to Mombasa and back. The original idea was to continue through the Suez and the Mediterranean, calling at Genoa and Gibraltar and home, but our friend Nasser put a stop to that.

We called at Rotterdam and were there time enough to have a short charabanc ride to the Hague, and then on to Las Palmas and a wonderful crossing through the Bay of Biscay, where we picked up some ship's stores, chiefly bananas, and water. We next called at Ascension Island for a few hours and here we left stores for them, chiefly eatables, with quite a few barrels of beer and a motor car. These were all landed on a raft, as there is no quay or dock here. Between here and St. Helena we passed H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on the *Britannia*, and our Captain sent a message on behalf of everyone, and the Duke replied. Also about this time we crossed the Line and we had a wonderful ceremony, quite a number of the officers and crew taking part—King Neptune and his Court all coming from Davy Jones' Locker, and they were a sight to see. Next we stayed at St. Helena for a whole day, so we landed with difficulty from small boats and we toured the island, visiting Napoleon's prison home, and also his first grave, or at any rate until the body was taken by the French to Paris.

Of course we had by this time well started the usual ship's games, and I and Mrs. Gover went in for the Bridge. I was fortunate enough to be drawn with quite a nice player, and with steady bridge we went on to win the final. The night before Cape Town was a Gala night, and also Captain Holland gave out the prizes, and my partner and I had a great ovation. Mrs. Gover also had to go up to receive a first prize for Whist. It was indeed a great night, with dancing after and also a late supper, and all this time we were on the Cape Town rollers.

Next day we landed at Cape Town, but we had a note from Mrs. McGivern to stay in our cabin until we were called for by Mrs. Opperman, who is a great friend of St. Dunstan's.

During our two-day stay we visited the home of Captain and Mrs. Anderson, and



of course we met Jimmy Ellis and his lady, but we saw more of them on our return. We then went on to Port Elizabeth, East London and then Durban, where we were met by people we were asked to see. At Durban, in fact, Mrs. Morris was wonderful in finding friends each day to take us round and show us Durban in their cars, and then on to Lourenço Marques, where we met yet another friend who was recommended by Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Hawkes.

Our next port was Beira, also Portuguese East Africa, and we landed yet more cargo, as we had done at all the other ports, chiefly motor car parts and paper pulp, and here we landed quite a few toilet basins for Rhodesia, so to make our ship a little more steady, our Captain picked up 5,000 tons of copper, which we could have picked up on our return. Beira was very hot, but our next port was also hot and yet a different kind of heat, and also nearer the Equator. We had three good days here for, as you know, Mombasa is the port for Kenya and Nairobi. Mombasa is a very mixed town, consisting of Arabs, Indians, African natives, all kinds of Europeans and all kinds of Jews.

We had a conducted tour round Mombasa, which is an island, and visited the markets of all these different people, and another day we went over the Causeway Bridge and into native African territory. All these three days our ship was loading as fast as possible and they work all night (black labour), 5,000 tons of coffee and cases and cases of tea. I understand that the tea-growing in Kenya is increasing in leaps and bounds yearly, and many tea planters have come here from India and Ceylon. Our port of call on our return was Dar-es-Salaam, where I lost four of my bridge friends, who are working on Local Government.

Our port of call was, of course, Beira again, for we are now on our return, but before reaching Beira at 10 a.m. one morning on the public address speaker it was announced that at 11.30 we would be coming up to the *Kenilworth Castle* and would at that time slow up and stop in order that our doctor could be taken from our ship to theirs to be of assistance. We saw our doctor and ten men on the sun deck with their lifebelts on, get into the lifeboat, then it was lowered by others and sent away to the other ship and the doctor was there for over forty minutes.

It was a great sight, this helping of one another at sea, and then the return and being hauled aboard by machinery, of course, men and boat, to the sun deck again. The *Kenilworth Castle* was, of course, entirely cargo, and did not carry a doctor. The man had fallen and very nearly broken his neck, but we were pleased to hear a few days later that he was getting on very well.

Mrs. Morris again got all her forces together and saw that there was never a dull moment for the Govers, in fact, the day we arrived was at Committee, which immediately broke up for tea and chat. We were interviewed by a representative of the *Natal News* and photographed, and the friends who had met us at East London and Port Elizabeth also came to see us. Then Cape Town again, where Mrs. Opperman and Mrs. McGivern took charge of us. Mrs. Opperman took us for a drive and then on to her house for lunch with her daughter, who had spent two years resident on the Outer Circle, Regent's Park, so we had much in common.

Mrs. Hart came and took us for a drive in the afternoon and to collect her husband and back to her house to tea. Many of you will remember Mrs. Hart as Miss Hodge, when she was secretary to Miss Pain at Church Stretton. Mr. Hart, who was blinded in the last war, overwhelmed her and married her.

We were then picked up by Mrs. Ellis and Jimmy, with Mrs. McGivern. We were the guests of Mrs. McGivern, with Jimmy, to dinner, and then on to Signal Point (rather more than half-way up Table Mountain) to see the lights of the town and the ships and the bay by night. They then took us back to our ship, so they all came on board for a binder. Next day we were met by Mrs. Gill, who took us for a long drive to visit many bays and also the Naval Station, which we have now so recently handed over to the South African Government. We left in the afternoon with many happy memories and telegrams and flowers and fruit. The journey home was a good passage, calling at the usual ports. We both went in for the Bridge, but were knocked out in the second and third rounds. We ran into some nasty fog off Folkestone, where the pilot should have come aboard, and we were delayed nine hours. I think I have made it clear that on the return journey we had quite a few passengers who were colonials coming home on leave, and what a thrill they and we had to see just

on our port side passing by Folkestone, the white cliffs of Dover, then round to the left and St. Margaret's Bay and Deal, Ramsgate, Margate, Herne Bay, Southend, Leigh-on-Sea and Tilbury for, without the fog, we were supposed to be doing all this in the dark.

### The First Reunions

Anout one hundred St. Dunstaners and their escorts attended the Reunion at Windsor on April 6th—the first to be held there for a number of years.

Sir Neville Pearson presided and this most happy and successful meeting was an auspicious beginning to the 1957 series.

Mr. D. G. Hopewell presided at the Maidstone gathering on April 11th; not quite such a large gathering but no less pleasant.

### Family News

Brenda Hodgman, Sutton, Surrey, has passed her Finals and is now a S.R.N.

Marie Temperton, Hull, has been successful in passing Parts 1 and 2 of the State examinations. She is at present nursing at the Royal Infirmary Hull.

Valerie Shread, King's Lynn, has passed her preliminary State examination, Part 2.

David Holmes, Stonehouse, Gloucester, has recently passed, at Cheltenham, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art first grade examination in elocution. He has also been awarded a certificate in "The Art of Speaking Verse" for those under ten years of age.

We send sympathy to Mrs. C. E. Beck, Salfords, Surrey, in the loss of her only surviving brother.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Patricia White, King's Lynn, was married on March 30th.

On March 23rd, Margaret Mary Jean Brooks, Bournemouth, to Dennis Budden.

On March 9th, Alan Moore, Blackpool, to Miss Marjorie Elsbury.

On February 23rd, Catherine Langton, Bottesford, to Sergeant Edward Grimes, Sherwood Foresters, now stationed in Germany.

On April 6th, George Dunwoodie, Walker, near Newcastle, to Miss Eileen McAlister.

### Mountain Rescue

We take the following from the *Holmfirth Express* of March 9th. The R.A.F. man—Gerald Horner—referred to, is the son of our St. Dunstaner, R. Horner, of Holmfirth.

"A Holmfirth man serving in the Royal Air Force took part in a heroic piece of work last month on the icy slopes of a mountain in Perthshire, Scotland. He is Leading Aircraftman Gerald Horner.

"A party of 27 men were taking part in a practice exercise on Ben Lui, a 3,700 ft. mountain near Tyndrum, as members of an R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Crew. Four of the party were together swept 300 ft. down the mountainside in an avalanche of snow, while a 100 miles an hour gale was blowing.

"Slowly the men began to stir from the covering snow, and found they were all alive, though injured. One had a broken leg, another had a broken arm. The man with the broken arm went down to seek assistance.

"Meanwhile Armourer Aircraftman Bill Halford and Leading Aircraftman Horner decided to try to get the man with the broken leg, Corporal John Law, down the mountainside. Using their pickaxes as splints, they crossed his legs and let the cold of the blizzard freeze the break to numb the pain.

"Then, with Halford hanging grimly to the top rope and Horner on the bottom rope, the two men lowered their companion stage by stage two thousand feet down the mountain side, an operation which took five hours. In the struggle they forgot their own injuries. Halford had a severe cut across the forehead and several bruises, and Horner had a twisted wrist in addition to several bruises."

### Birth

BRIGGS.—On March 2nd, to the wife of H. Briggs, of Birkdale, a second daughter.



## Talking Book Library

### April Aperitif

This month's harvest yielded five books and in addition I shall try to outline two of the "other titles" of last month. Thus: "Mary Anne," by Daphne du Maurier, reader Robin Holmes, is a very live historical documentary of the mistress of the Army Commander, Duke of York, in Napoleonic days. The heroine scrambles from the squalor of the East End, makes a disastrous marriage, rears a brood of children, captivates and ruins the Duke of York, and when finally cast off retires to France to live peacefully, but returning to London to the Duke's funeral, she achieves almost full circle. Her rise and decline hold the attention without ever altering one's pulse rate.—*Cat. No. 109.*

"In Kedar's Tents," by H. Seton Merriman, reader John de Manio, is a story of official travel through the Aden Protectorate during the early thirties. Now that it has some topical interest it has an added attraction.—*Cat. No. 110.*

"Father of Nobody's Children," by Norman Wymer, reader Timothy Brinton, is a full and interesting biography of Dr. Thomas Barnardo. It is an eye-opener to us smug citizens of the welfare state that there was so much for this one man to accomplish less than a century ago. A quite gripping revelation!—*Cat. No. 111.*

"The Boy from Greece," by James Kinross, reader Patricia Hayes, is a proud, pathetic story of a Greek youngster shattered by a bandit's grenade and his coming to England for treatment and training. His heartbreaks and triumphs and the love and understanding of those who tend him should warm the reader's heart.—*Cat. No. 114.*

"The Tollgate," by Georgette Heyer, reader Robert Gladwell, is set in Derbyshire, in the Napoleonic period. The hero, an ex-soldier and a young buck, is instrumental in recovering stolen bullion grabbed by friends of the heroine's brother, and everyone in the end gets his or her just deserts.—*Cat. No. 970.*

"Against Whom," by Phyllis Bottome, reader Timothy Brinton, has a sanatorium in Switzerland as its setting. A young Canadian doctor and his wife run the place with two other doctors and nursing staff.

A new patient, very sick, wilful, seventeen, and female, tries to captivate the young doctor, who is already estranged from his wife. Another patient, an R.C. priest, helps sort out the naughty patient and the estrangement of doctor and wife. The moral and spiritual issues are here so neatly woven as to make a fascinating story throughout.—*Cat. No. 59.*

"House of Mirth," by Edith Wharton, reader Robert Gladwell, is cast for the main part in New England among the upper crust of U.S. society. A girl reared in this environment falls on lean times and, being unable to face leaving the circles she knows, has to live on her social accomplishments. A fine study in hopes, miseries, likes, dislikes, sophisticated treachery and back-biting, puritanism and abandon, all neatly wrapped in cloth of gold to make a change from everyday reading.—*Cat. No. 19.*

"NELSON."

*Correction.*—The Catalogue No. for "This Fascinating Animal World," reviewed last month, should be *No. 94* and not *91*.

## Renaissance

He who says the past is dead and therein sees no life ahead

In vain would cut the magic thread which links creation's vital spread.

But the past is the present reborn else there'd be no night or morn,

The heavenly bodies would lose their glow, all flora and fauna would cease to grow.

See that field of ripening corn, soon to answer the reaper's call,

Not to fall and rise no more, but to return again through another door.

Regal in beauty, perfect in shape, with colour pure as a virgin's cape,

The lily steps with angel feet from what was yester's festering heap.

Watch the babe at its mother's breast, forging its link in survival's quest,

Instinct with life though by reason untaught, the present and future from the past begat.

In virgin soil and desert sand, in forest deep ne'er trod by man,

The seed which fell from nature's hand renews itself in life's eternal plan.

Thus the wheel full circle turns, losing naught but what it gains,

Birth, life and death in it evolves, but only the Maker its mystery can solve.

T. ROGERS.

(These verses are not in the Braille "Review," but will appear next month.)

### Mrs. Olive Arnold

St. Dunstaners of the early days will hear with deep regret of the death, on March 21st, of Sir Arthur Pearson's last surviving sister, Mrs. Olive Arnold.

Mrs. Arnold was Matron of the house in Queen's Road, Brighton, until 1919, when she went to Cheltenham to become Matron of our Annexe there. When this house, too, was closed in 1923 and Mrs. Arnold left us, she wrote: "I shall never forget the six years I spent with my St. Dunstan's boys, to whom I still feel I belong—indeed, as my brother's sister I could never feel otherwise."

Mrs. Arnold's "boys" of those days will remember her with affection.

### Grandfathers

W. Samworth, of Edgware; H. V. Frampton, of Welling; Arthur T. Brooks, of Bournemouth (for the ninth time); E. James, of Darlington; P. Martin, of Thornton Heath; W. E. Bignell, of Edmonton.

★ ★ ★

The thoughts of his friends will go out to W. T. Scott, of Streatham, who has become a grandfather, but in very sad circumstances. Josephine, his second daughter, had a son, Christopher Roy Smith, on March 16th, but his father did not live to see him. He died three weeks before. Josephine is at present living with her father and mother.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BAKER.—To C. B. Baker, of Enfield, whose wife died on March 28th. She had been

seriously ill for many months but had made several recoveries.

EVANS.—To W. R. Evans, of Rhyl, who lost his mother on March 23rd. She had been blind for the last six years. She was 85.

EVANS.—To Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Evans, of Rhyl, whose only daughter, Mrs. Foy, died on April 11th in childbirth. She leaves a husband and four young children.

HURRELL.—To A. Hurrell, of Kenley, whose remaining sister died on January 10th. Our sympathy also goes to Mrs. Hurrell, who lost her eldest brother the following month.

JEROME.—To S. K. ("Jerry") Jerome, whose wife, Marjorie, died in hospital in Sydney, Australia, on March 5th, after a long and painful illness. Their friends will recall that "Jerry" who served in the Australian Imperial Forces in the First World War, settled as a poultry farmer in England, but he and Mrs. Jerome went back to Australia for a prolonged holiday with their son in November, 1953.

PHILLIPS.—To C. Phillips, of Dartford, Kent, whose mother died on April 3rd. Our St. Dunstaner lived with his parents.

WATSON.—To G. V. E. Watson, of Melbourne, Australia, whose wife, Hilda, died in February last. Many will remember our St. Dunstaner (who trained as a physiotherapist) and will have met Mrs. Watson on one of her visits to this country.

★ ★ ★

Our sympathy also goes to Mrs. D. D. Edwards, of Sandy, and her husband in the loss of Mrs. Edwards' mother. Our St. Dunstaner says that she was more like his own mother to him.

### "In Memory"—continued

#### Private John Henry Tindall, 6th East Yorkshire Regiment

We have to record with deep regret the death of J. H. Tindall, of Newby, Scarborough.

He saw service from June, 1916, until April, 1919, being wounded in France in October, 1918. He came to us the following April and trained as a basket-maker, and he carried on his craft right up to the time of his death on April 15th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Tindall.

#### Alphonse Van den Bosch, 7th Regt. de Ligne, Belgian Infantry

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Alphonse Van den Bosch, who came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1916. He trained in mat-making and boot-repairing, later being appointed pupil teacher in the boot-repairing department. He left us in April, 1919, and returned to Belgium. The news of his death has come to us through his friend and fellow St. Dunstaner, Alfred Bennett, of Dover, who writes:—

"Alphonse Van den Bosch was a very fine fellow and liked by all of us. He was called 'Alphonse the Belgian,' and I grew to be very friendly with him. I have always kept in touch with him, he sending type-written letters and I replying in English Braille. I have even been over and had a holiday with him. He could speak several languages and his English was perfect. He played the cornet in our band. I played the mandoline-banjo with seven others. Alphonse died on August 19th."

Our deep sympathy is offered to the relatives of Alphonse and to his friend, Alfred Bennett.



## “In Memory”

### Gunner Richard George Beard, *Royal Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of R. G. Beard, of Reading. He was sixty-two.

He enlisted at the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, and was discharged from the Army in 1947. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits two years later, but did not come to us for actual training, being employed at the British Legion Poppy Factory. His health was very poor indeed. He was a prisoner of war in Java from 1942. His injuries had resulted in the amputation of his leg in 1951.

He died on March 28th in hospital, where he had been taken a week before.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and two step-sons.

### Private Robert Boyter, *8th Seaforth Highlanders*

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on April 4th, of R. Boyter, of Pittenweem, Fife.

He served with his regiment from September, 1915, until his discharge in July of the following year; he had been wounded at Hulloch in May, 1916, and he came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1916. He trained as a poultry-farmer and followed this occupation for nine years; he then took up basketry again and continued with this right up to the time of his death. He had been in indifferent health for some time and he had suffered the additional disability of deafness for very many years.

He leaves a widow and two grown-up daughters, to whom our sincere sympathy is sent.

### Private Joseph Charles Brown, *8th Army Brigade Canadian Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of J. C. Brown, of Trench, near Wellington, Shropshire.

He served in the First World War from August, 1916, to his discharge in March, 1919. He had been wounded in France in March, 1918, when he received severe burns on his face and both hands; he came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1918, and trained first as a poultry farmer, which occupation he followed for a few years, then as a netter. Of late years, however, his health had been very poor.

He leaves a widow and four grown-up children, to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

### Private William Deeks, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Deeks, of Great Bentley, Colchester. He was seventy-four.

He had been discharged from the Service in March, 1919, but it was not until October, 1948, that he was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits. He was then too old and ill to take up any training. In February, 1955, owing to the state of his wife's health, he entered West House, Brighton, as a permanent resident. His own health gradually deteriorated and he died on April 12th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Deeks, who is herself in hospital.

### Sergeant John Eccleston, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Eccleston, of Leigh, Lancashire.

Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded on the Somme in July, 1916, and came to us in the following year. He trained as a boot and clog repairer and was engaged on this work for many years; on giving this up he changed to rug and mat-making and string bag making. Latterly, however, his health had been very poor indeed.

He leaves a widow and a family of nine (he was twice married) and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Eccleston. (She and her husband had celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on May 2nd last year).

### Private Arthur Sidney Henderson, *Royal Army Service Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. S. Henderson, of Dagenham. He was seventy-two.

He served in the First World War and on his discharge in 1917, came to St. Dunstan's. His poor health, which had prevented him taking any training, remained so throughout the rest of his life. On March 11th he was admitted to hospital and he died there on April 7th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, to whom our very sincere sympathy is offered.

### Private Albert Flower, *1st Battalion, The Buffs*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Flower, of Nuneaton, at the age of seventy-four.

He had served with The Buffs from December, 1915, until May, 1919, when he received his discharge. He had suffered the effects of mustard gas, but it was not until January, 1955, that he came to us, when he was already a very sick man. He was not able to undertake any training and suffered constantly from bronchitis as a result of the gassing.

He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

### Private John Henry Lea, *Machine Gun Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. H. Lea, of Hartshill, near Nuneaton. He was 62.

Enlisting in July, 1917, he was wounded in France in February, 1918, and came to St. Dunstan's that year. He trained as a poultry farmer and netter and until 1954, farmed generally on the farm where he was born, and which was kept by his father before him. He then worked solely as a poultry farmer right up to the day of his death, April 6th, although he had been in ill-health for some considerable time.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Lea.

### E. V. Martin, *32nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of E. V. Martin, of Greenmount, Western Australia. He was sixty-nine years of age. He was gassed at Ypres in 1917.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Martin.

*Continued on previous page*

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

N EARLY eight hours in the saddle in one day, broken only by a quarter of an hour for morning tea and half an hour for a sandwich lunch, is a good deal for two people like my wife and myself who belong to the 1914-1918 war vintage and spend most of our lives indoors. Nevertheless we survived without undue stiffness or fatigue.

We had ridden from Marakabei, one of Fraser Limited's trading stations in South Africa, over the mountains to a camp that had been established near the source of the Maletsunyane River, some 8,000 feet above sea level. The camp consisted of a number of tents, primus stoves, cooking pots and, believe it or not, a canvas bath and every other convenience, which had been brought over the mountains by eight mules and thirteen Basuto ponies, and had been erected by Mr. du Preez, one of our store managers, and his native boys.

Chief Lechesa Mofuqoi greeted us and rode the last two hours with us. That evening we exchanged suitable tokens of our regard for each other with speeches and salutes. The Chief's welcoming gift to me was a sheep which was slaughtered on the spot; its liver and kidneys, screwed up in a tin, were put in the river to keep to cook for our breakfast, a process which was hardly necessary because that night there were twelve degrees of frost. The rest of the sheep was cooked before an open fire in the veldt and eaten by our twenty native boys for supper and breakfast. We estimated that it provided between three and four pounds of meat each. All were pleased, and nobody seemed to have indigestion.

Next day a three hours' ride, accompanied by the Chief and his horsemen, brought us to Semokong, another mountain station 7,400 feet above the sea. Surrounded by a wall made of local ironstone is an enclave containing the Manager's house, a splendid double-fronted shop, a reserve store, a wool store, a mill for grinding grain, stables and outhouses, and a rest-house for customers. The store (with its modern glass counter in the centre) is laden with every conceivable kind of merchandise, the most colourful being blankets of every quality and hue. All the fabric of the store, including the Manager's bath, a wind-motor to charge his wireless and provide a little electric light, and the heavy metal mill, came up the mountainside on donkey, pony or bullock packs. Wool, mohair, wheat and peas are bought from the native farmers, and merchandise is sold. Only a handful of Europeans live here—the Manager and his wife, and, a few miles away, the doctor and his wife and a mission station. No other European is within ten or miles twenty in any direction.

Adjoining the station is an airstrip originally built by our company but now taken over by the Government, so that the isolation of earlier times has given way to a certain amount of traffic, including a weekly postal plane or an occasional Government visitor or inspector.

We needed many ponies for the trek and, apart from those belonging to the firm, had



to borrow from friendly chiefs, headmen and natives. The Basuto people are generous, hospitable and warm-hearted and have a strong sense of courtesy and respect for visitors, especially to old friends like ourselves, for members of my family have been trading in Basutoland for the past eighty years. I was told that to hire a horse for "a 'son' of Frasers" would, in the view of the village, be lacking in courtesy.

My co-director and friend, Jack Nolan, who organised the trip, rode ahead of me. My pony followed like a schoolgirl in a crocodile, up and down and zig-zag, sure-footed, certain, faithful. During our long ride we crossed mountains and rivers where there were no Government paths or tracks. We slithered down muddy banks, traversed rocky patches where it would seem that only a good goat could go; but no pony fell. Our personal luggage included Elastoplast to mend a punctured buttock, a pistol to shoot a horse if he broke his leg, a hypodermic needle to shoot me if I broke mine, and some anti-venom for snake bites; none was used. Our food—bully beef, sausages, eggs and bacon, soup and bread; our drink—coffee and the inevitable gin and, a special favour to me, a bottle of French Vermouth to go with it. Nothing had been forgotten.

It always rains at Easter in Basutoland, they warned us, but it didn't.

On our way we fished for yellow fish and caught none, and for rainbow trout and I caught two—a 2 lb. and a 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. They fought like the best English trout, which is the highest compliment I can pay them, and fishermen may like to know that they were killed on a light trout rod with 7 lbs. nylon cast and an invicta fly. I also had two takes on a Peter Ross.

From time to time, Jack Nolan or Bill Roche, my other co-director and companion, would exchange greetings in fluent Basuto with natives as we passed them in their villages, or with horsemen going about their business.

On Easter Monday we flew from the mountain in a single engine plane belonging to a most enterprising local operator. As we passed 11,000 feet above the famous Maluti Mountain we wondered which crag or pinnacle would be best to land on if the engine failed, but it didn't.

As far as I know, the Basuto nation are the only mounted African people, and the population of ponies bred, trained and ridden in Basutoland must number scores of thousands. The Government, the missionaries, and the traders have done much for this country, bringing it in a hundred years from primitive barbarism to a well-ordered, peaceful, and, on the whole, law-abiding condition. Britons, including as always, many Scots, may be proud of their civilising influence.

IAN FRASER.

### Chess Week-end

The Chess Week-end at Ovingdean this year is being held from Friday, September 13th, to Monday, September 16th (nights inclusive) and I will be writing to all those St. Dunstaners on my Chess List nearer the time, in the usual way. If there are any other men interested and who would like to take part in this function, I shall be pleased to hear from them.

C. D. WILLS.

### The Derby Sweepstake

The Derby Sweepstake is now closed. The draw will take place at the London Club on Thursday evening, May 30th, and all those drawing a horse will be notified the following day.

### Presentation to Miss Cecil Wood

On Thursday evening, May 2nd, a goodly number of London men gathered in the London Club rooms at 191 Marylebone Road, when a presentation was made to Miss Cecil Wood, until recently Welfare Visitor for the Greater London area. Mr. Lloyds introduced Mr. Sammy Webster, who, on behalf of the men of her Area, presented Miss Wood with a travelling clock and notecase as a token of their affection and regard. An antique chest had also been chosen by Miss Wood.

In her reply, Miss Wood expressed her sadness that her association with us had been prematurely ended, but she said she would take with her many happy memories of her days of visiting.

*(A letter from Miss Wood is on page 3.)*

## London Club Notes

### Special Notice

To all readers of this REVIEW—(and if you have any St. Dunstan's friends who do not read the magazine, will you please pass the following information on to them). Do you know the London Club carries on its activities at 191 Marylebone Road? The Club is open every night of the week except Wednesdays and Sundays. The main events of the week are as follows: On Tuesday a Whist Drive is held for men and escorts; on Thursday a Domino Drive is held, and very soon Housey-Housey will be added to provide extra entertainment on that night; on Saturday afternoon, Bridge tournaments, matches and Bridge Drives are held, and in the evening, a Whist Drive, again for men and escorts, finishes the day.

I hope that a large number of London men will spot this notice and give the Club a trial. All will be made welcome, so do try and come along. By the way, if you have any suggestions to make that you think might improve the entertainment, we have a suggestion box in the Front Hall, and new ideas will be warmly welcomed and will certainly be tried out. Now then, fellows, make up your minds and roll up. We will be pleased to see you. If you want to know anything about the Club and how to get there, telephone PAD 5021 and ask for Mr. Wills, who will be only too pleased to assist you.

### Bridge

The following information might be of interest to St. Dunstan's bridge players. The first quarter of this year has been a very busy one for the St. Dunstan's Bridge Club. During the last three months we have played six matches on Saturday afternoons against London teams and up to the moment, the result stands at four wins to us and two losses.

The Sir Arthur Pearson pairs competition is going on wonderfully well and we have great hopes that it will be finished by the end of this month. It is hoped to start a Knock-out Competition sometime in June and all our bridge players are interested. This information has been put in this REVIEW with the sincere hope that it may encourage new members who are interested in this game and who have not given a Club a chance. So give it a trial lads, and we feel sure you will not regret it.

One more reminder that if you have not sent in your name for the Harrogate Week (September 7th—14th) will you please do so as soon as possible. G.P.B.

## St. Dunstan's Fifteen-Mile Walk Regent's Park, Saturday, 13th April, 1957

Order of Finish	Time		H'cap Time	Pos. in H'cap
1. W. Miller	2-27-1	Scratch	2-27-1	5
2. A. Brown ...	2-27-39	3-20	2-24-19	2
3. G. Hewitt ...	2-34-55	8-00	2-26-55	4
4. T. Gaygan ...	2-36-18	14-00	2-22-18	1
5. P. Cryan ...	2-44-00	13-00	2-31-00	6
6. S. Tutton ...	2-46-25	14-00	2-32-25	7
7. C. Stafford ...	2-50-31	25-00	2-25-31	3
Time Standard Medals (2 hrs. 35 mins.):—				
W. Miller, A. Brown, G. Hewitt.				

## To St. Dunstaners of the London Area

I am using the REVIEW to send a message of thanks to the many St. Dunstaners who contributed towards my retirement present but were not able to be at the Club yesterday evening.

I cannot tell you in a few words how much I value the affection which you have shown me through this most generous gift and also in your letters. The travelling clock (which has been inscribed) and the note-case and the antique chest will be constant reminders of you—if I should need one. I have enjoyed my twelve years with you and have many memories of experiences shared—some of them amusing ones! I am very sad at being obliged to leave you five years before my time, and I shall miss you all.

Owing to my walking powers having been reduced, it was not possible for me to keep right up-to-date with the visiting last year, but I am hoping to meet most of you once more at the London Reunion party in September. In the meanwhile, I send you my good wishes.

Yours affectionately and gratefully,  
May 3rd, 1957. CECIL WOOD.

★ ★ ★

From John Mudge, now of the sun-bronzed face and soil-hardened hands, come greetings from Saltdean, and an entertaining description of his labours to make his new garden beautiful. When he wrote he was struggling with the handicap of no rain. "Like all farmers," he says, "I have my moans, but I am getting along pretty well."

Nice to hear from you, John.



## Pensions Plea Rejected

Mr. John Boyd Carpenter, Minister of Pensions, has refused the request for increased war disability pensions put to him by the British Legion and seventeen other ex-service organisations.

In his letter to Sir Ian Fraser, President of the British Legion, the Minister says that improvements for the more seriously war disabled, costing £1,750,000 in the first full year, came into effect as recently as last February. These indicated clearly that the Government had not forgotten its promise to keep war pensions under review, "but it is little more than two years since we made the biggest increase in the main rates of war pensions ever made in the history of this country."

"It is not realistic to suppose that a further basic rate increase could be made for war pensioners and their dependents in complete isolation from other social service claims. I am afraid, therefore," Mr. Boyd Carpenter concluded, "that we cannot meet the deputation's request for an immediate substantial increase in the basic war pensions rates. It is naturally with regret that we have felt bound to come to this decision."

The Minister's letter deals only with the deputation's plea for an increase in the basic rate, from its present level of 67s. 6d. to 90s. a week. He has promised to reply separately to other points raised by the deputation.

Speaking at the British Legion Women's Conference on May 16th, Sir Ian Fraser said "We have been told that at Chequers last week-end, Ministers were planning the biggest pensions reforms ever, to come into effect before the next general election. Such a complicated scheme, affecting so many millions of people, must take time to prepare; it could not become law until the middle of 1958. Even then there must be a further administrative delay before it became effective. A major reform of war pensions rates could not wait until the Government had put through all the necessary processes for these changes. An adjustment of war pensions to what the Legion calls the '90s. level' is long overdue. We ask the Government to increase them this year, thus giving practical effect to the assurance the Minister made in his letter to me that it is the Government's firm intention to maintain the principle of preference for war pensioners."

## International Handicrafts, Homecrafts and Hobbies Exhibition

The International Handicrafts, Homecrafts and Hobbies Exhibition, now in its fifth year, will be held at Earls Court, London, from September 19th to 28th. This Exhibition is recognised as the largest and most successful of its kind in the world, covering as it does all aspects of handicrafts, homecrafts and hobbies. A British Handicraft Competition is also being run in conjunction with the main Exhibition, and this will include special sections for blind and disabled people. Prizes to the value of £280, in addition to silver and bronze plaques, bronze medals and certificates of merit, will be awarded in the British Handicraft Competition.

It is felt that the Competition will particularly appeal to some of our experienced hobby craftsmen and St. Dunstan's is prepared to assist with the cost of placing exhibits. Application forms for entry can be obtained from Mr. Wills, at Headquarters.

## The Reunions

The month so far has brought meetings at Blackpool, Chester and Manchester.

At Blackpool, on May 8th, Mr. T. F. Lister, C.B.E., member of St. Dunstan's Council, presided over what is always one of the biggest gatherings of the year.

Not quite so large, but no less enjoyable, was Chester on May 10th. Mr. D. G. Hopewell, so well known in the North as a member of our Council, welcomed the guests at this meeting, which was the first organised by Miss Newall, Visitor for Wales and Border Counties. During the afternoon, our St. Dunstaner, Tom Woods, with his band, provided music, and some amateur entertainers whom he had also brought along were greatly appreciated.

At Manchester, on May 11th, Mr. Hopewell, again presided. A company from the Hulme Hippodrome entertained during the afternoon and everyone agreed that it was a most successful meeting.

Mr. Wills was, of course, present at all these Reunions, and Miss M. A. Midgley, who has taken Miss Wilson's place, had her first introduction to them and was able to meet many of her Northern men.

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

When choosing books for the blind, I should certainly do so on the comprehensive and lucid lines suggested by our Chairman last month.

We St. Dunstaners are fortunate in that we have seen and can therefore appreciate descriptive matter, and I wonder to what extent, if not completely, this is meaningless to those who have not had sight. Personally, I feel strongly that excessively descriptive and verbose literature should be avoided, and in the case of the Talking Book, a voice that does not become monotonous is essential.

I favour the condensing of long books, old and new, where this is really worth while, but to make it so is obviously a very difficult task.

Having regard to the cost of production, it is clear that only the best of all types of literature should be selected, and that we must adjust ourselves as cheerfully as possible to circumstances beyond our control.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR T. BROOKS, *Bournemouth.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I think that it is highly desirable that books recorded should seldom exceed two volumes; that all books with a dialect should be avoided; also, that peculiarity which sometimes crops up of the character who, when playing the part of a foreigner, will persist in talking broken English even when he is supposed to be speaking in his native tongue.

With reference to the condensation of some novels, I am sure that many will not suffer much in the telling if some of the redundant verbiage were excised. I think that many of the older novels are great offenders in this respect. Since the turn of the century, our language has become more streamlined, terseness being the order of the day, so, since we live in this century, we must not pretend to be purists.

I also think that cast reading does much to make the characters in a story come to life. However good a reader may be, and there are several, the telling of a story if extended, tends to become monotonous. With cast readings, surely the sound effects can save many grooves in a record, although I am not sure that this would add to the cost.

A good example is that of the B.B.C.'s story-telling, especially in the Children's Hour, where so much care is given to detail that one can see the story live—without a "tele."

Sincerely yours,

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON  
*Cliftonville, Margate.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I fully agree with our Chairman that something should be done to enable Braille readers to obtain a larger variety of books. I know there are some Braille readers who are opposed to any book that is being put into Braille being abridged, but if they read a lot, I feel sure there have been times when they must have said to themselves, "Well, a lot of this could have been cut out." I have just read one of the Panda novels in four volumes. This work could have been condensed and I should have enjoyed the reading more if I could have done some skip-work, but being blind I was at a disadvantage. I feel sure there are many authors who, when writing, have to consider making the book into, say, three hundred pages, so that it can be sold at full novel price, and also perhaps please the publisher. Such works should be condensed. I know many who will say, "Who is to do this?" Well, if it is done in the printing world with *World Digest*, *The Reader's Digest* for example, why not in Braille?

When sighted people read, they look at print; when blind people read they feel dots. When we read we all see a moving picture in our brains, but the difference is that the sighted can skip the non-essentials whereas we have to feel every word, fearing we will miss an essential. . . .

I am grateful to all those people in the sighted world who have provided capital for so much expensive Braille reading matter so that our incapacity is more easy to bear. If more books could be provided for the same outlay, I shall be pleased. I should like all who are interested in Braille to again read our Chairman's article in the April issue of the REVIEW and to let him know if you are for or against condensation of Braille reading.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM JORDAN, *Hove.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been receiving on average twelve volumes a month from the National Library for the Blind now for over thirty



years and have no complaints to make about the selection of books by that Library. As to condensing books—*certainly not*. Which sane writer is going to give permission for his books to be put into Braille or read for the Talking Book only to have it slashed to pieces and probably their best work cut out of it? Was “Whereas I was Blind,” by Sir Ian Fraser condensed? Who would do the condensing and what would it involve in cost and time? If the blind had condensed books they would quickly become a laughing stock. People would say we hadn’t the intelligence to read a book as it was written. Our books would become like a town of council houses, drab and unattractive . . . Reading a book should be a pleasure and who on earth wants to rush through a pleasure?

May I point out that there are about 4,000 deaf-blind people in Britain; most of them find reading their chief entertainment, the rest their only form of entertainment. The deaf-blind are cut off enough as it is without people who are able to turn to other forms of entertainment cutting down our reading to next to nothing.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD, *Southwick*.

DEAR EDITOR,

The analysis by Sir Ian Fraser of the position regarding Braille and talking-book publications is interesting and raises some important considerations. It is obvious that within the limitations imposed by production factors, very careful and judicious selection of reading matter for the blind is extremely important.

I think that the question of any abridgment of books—a matter which I believe has previously been raised in your columns—requires the closest examination. With certain types of books of perhaps passing value and interest, abridgment may perhaps be a practical consideration. Whether for the blind or anyone else, I think it would be highly undesirable in the case of say, a classic such as “Pride and Prejudice.”

In the case of talking books, technical improvements, such as the project recently mentioned in the REVIEW by the Chairman for recording on tape, this development presumably would make it unnecessary for books to be abridged. Developments in the field of Braille publications, however, do not seem to open up the possibility of parallel improvements, so that the present

factors of weight and bulk are likely to remain much the same as hitherto.

Although every now and then one finds that a desired book is not available in Braille, one must admit that the range of titles is very wide and, for the most part, the limiting factor in one’s reading is the ever present time factor. Even when reading at a respectable rate, one feels that one will never catch up with the main titles constantly being added to the list of Braille books. To a lesser degree, the same consideration applies to the increasing titles in the talking-book library, and, as I mention above, this is a field where one may hope for considerable technical advancements within the next few years. With these two facilities for reading, that is, through Braille and talking book publications, it is of course most important that there is close co-ordination in the selection of titles by the respective publishing organisations. I imagine that such co-operation must already exist, but there is the question as to whether certain types of books might be more satisfactorily dealt with in the talking book form whilst others could be left to Braille. In this connection one must, of course, not overlook the fact that many blind people have to rely solely on Braille, though it is to be hoped that as time goes on the facility of the talking book will become available to the greatest possible number of blind people.

Yours sincerely,

J. E. ROSTON, *Iver, Bucks.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Quite a number of St. Dunstaners living in or near Croydon are finding that, what with the cost of fares and the time it takes to travel, it is more and more difficult to come to the London Club. The other day, when we were travelling to the Windsor Reunion, some of us started talking about the possibility of having a local Club. When we talked to Mr. Wills about it later he said he thought it a very good idea and that if we could get about seventeen or twenty of the chaps together, Headquarters would give us support.

I have spoken to some of the chaps who live in Kingston or thereabouts, and it has been suggested that we make Sutton our point of meeting.

Please don’t think for a moment that we wish to separate from the Club at H.Q. We still are all members of the great family of St. Dunstan’s, but we think this is an

experiment which would be worth trying. Will all St. Dunstaners who are interested please write to me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

74 Waddon Court Road, E. W. DUDLEY.  
Croydon, Surrey.

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest Sir Ian's leader in the March REVIEW and his efforts, combined with all the other ex-servicemen's organisations, for an increase in the basic rate of war disablement pensions.

It is most disappointing that the war disability pensions were not mentioned in the Chancellor's Budget speech of April 9th. However, there was one concession, I noted, *i.e.* A married couple over 65 have their personal allowance raised from £240 to £400 per annum.

May I make this suggestion: That when further discussions are taking place regarding the war disabled pensioner, this concession might be granted also to all 100% disabled and unemployable pensioners at any age.

Has Sir Ian or any of your readers any criticism to make on this, please?

Yours sincerely,

Worthing. CHARLES W. W. COOPER.

(Sir Ian comments: This was a tax concession and Mr. Cooper's suggestion would not benefit many "unemployable" pensioners, as their pension and allowances are tax free and they are unlikely to have any taxable income. It would only be of benefit to those totally disabled men who were married and had taxable earnings or other income, and the fact that all disability pensions and allowances are exempt free of tax is, in itself, a considerable concession.)

### Another Saint Dunstan Legend

"Nearly every year there is a wintry spell of weather in May. Why?" asked a *Daily Herald* reader recently. Anthony Field replied:

"Because, according to legend, St. Dunstan set up as a brewer and bargained with the Devil for three days' frost ending on St. Dunstan's Day, May 19th, so that the apple crop of the rival cider-makers would be ruined."

(The Saint seems to have inspired a number of legends, but we query the reference to May 19th. St. Dunstan died on this day and "The Feast of St. Dunstan," according to our records, is on May 10th. —ED.)

### News from All Quarters

Douglas, Isle of Man, is to be the British Legion's Annual Conference town this year and a St. Dunstaner, Howard Simcock, will be responsible for most of the arrangements. Mr. Simcock, who was wounded in Italy and is now an Advocate of the Manx Bar, is the Legion's County Secretary, Isle of Man.

★ ★ ★

L. S. Scales, a telephonist at Messrs. Wall's Factory, Purley Way, won a knitting machine in a firm's magazine competition, in which he had to place in correct order women's knitted twin-sets. He is himself a very skilled knitter, and now has orders which will keep him busy for several months. The presentation was made by James Norbury, the T.V. knitting expert.

★ ★ ★

Robert R. G. Lloyd, of Bournemouth, with Mrs. Lloyd, has left on the *Queen Mary* to make an extensive tour of Canada and part of the United States, to study American and Canadian physiotherapy methods.

★ ★ ★

Lewis Page, of Portslade, knew that chocolates and cigarettes were vanishing from his shop shelves, and kept watch. He caught two boys in the act. The police prosecuted, and the *News Chronicle*, in a special story, paid tribute to our St. Dunstaner's astuteness.

★ ★ ★

Dagenham Old Contemptibles honoured one of their oldest colleagues last month when they presented J. Moeller with a silver cigarette case as a farewell present when he left Dagenham for Brighton.

★ ★ ★

Tom Daborn, of Bexleyheath, has had a letter from Mrs. Ritchie (Miss Verna Johnson) with lots of news of the girls who used to be at Church Stretton. Mrs. Ritchie says that at their last association meeting, it was suggested that they save hard and charter a plane to have a reunion in London. Everyone over there wished to be remembered to all who knew them, and hope that one day the reunion will take place.

### Au Revoir

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Graves, of Eastham, Cheshire, who are joining their daughters and grandchildren in California, say "au revoir" to all St. Dunstaner friends and St. Dunstan's staff.



## Bomb Under the S.A.C.

I suppose I must be the only man living who ever took a live Japanese bomb into the H.Q. of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, and then went off to tea while the Security Service broke down doors to find it.

I did put the cat among the pigeons that day. Many of them were really panic stricken; quite a large number were officers who had never in their lives seen a shot fired in anger—you know, the type who saw the war from behind their desks—and to have a real live enemy bomb in their midst was entirely without precedent. Particularly when that midst revolved round so exalted a Supremo as Lord Mountbatten. He was S.A.C.—Supreme Allied Commander—and the Holy Grail itself would have felt insignificant in his H.Q.

His staff had taken over six floors of Cathay Building, Singapore's only skyscraper, and I, who worked for the Military Government, had a couple of rooms for my office on the first floor.

Now, believe it or not, Singapore is a place where I suffered agonies of boredom in those days. Unless you had a car—I hadn't—or were gifted with an unquenchable thirst, there was very little to do when you weren't working.

That's why I went alone to the beach at Katong that Sunday afternoon. It was not too far away, and though it was crowded with Chinese, Indians and Malays, it was blessedly free from Europeans.

I watched the bathing for a time, then I wandered along to a deserted part of the beach and sat down where a small stream—or perhaps it was a drain—ran down to the sea across the sand. It was a very small stream and, after a while, just to pass the time, I began idly to move some of the stones about to make a little dam. One of the stones was imbedded deeper in the sand than I had thought. I tugged and tugged, but it only moved very slightly and would not come up to the surface. I grew irritated, and got up to heave it aside with both hands. I worked it backwards and forwards and gave a steady pull at the protruding end, which was quite small.

A long, torpedo-like object began to come to the surface. It was much heavier than a stone of that size should be. Then I saw the reason why; it was made of metal, but so encrusted with corals and tiny sea

shells that it had looked like any ordinary stone. One last heave and it lay at my feet.

It was a Japanese 25-pound bomb.

Now when I was stationed at Chatham during the second year of the war, I was a member of the bomb disposal squad in my barracks. And I have quite a nice little collection of unexploded German bombs at home, a collection of which I was rather proud. They have been emptied and are quite harmless, of course; that goes without saying. But naturally I hadn't got a Japanese bomb among them; so I examined this one closely.

It had been dropped on the soft sand of the beach and had not exploded. That was when the Japs took Singapore. So for five years it had been knocked about and corroded by the water, and now the detonator was protruding at least three-quarters of an inch out of the nose and rusted immovably in that position. Nothing could shift it, the action of the water had welded it to the metal of the bomb case.

I looked at it with longing. Here was a magnificent souvenir for my collection. There was no way of emptying it now, but that didn't matter, it was as safe as houses. The job could be done later when I had the necessary tools.

With my copy of the *Straits Times* I made it into as neat a parcel as circumstances permitted. It would never do to let the other passengers in the bus see me holding a bomb on my knees! You never know how Asiatics will react.

The bus—an open lorry, really, filled with noisy Chinese—took me as far as Cathay Building, but as I would have to wait until the evening before a government car would be running up to Thompson Road, where I lived, I decided to leave the parcel in my office. By now I was eager to get rid of it: twenty-five pounds is no light weight in Singapore's muggy heat.

I was hot and sticky, so I went along to the lavatory for a wash.

While I was drying my face a young officer whom I knew slightly came in. He was a captain, very earnest, very conscientious, and completely devoid of a sense of humour. I didn't pay much attention to him, so when he asked what was in my parcel, and if I was going to give him a drink from it (he thought it was bottles), I just answered abstractedly that it wasn't booze, but a bomb.

Then I took it along to my office without giving him a further thought.

As I laid the parcel on my desk the strap of my wristwatch snapped. Leather soon rots in that climate, and the watch was rather a good one, so I slipped it into the top drawer of the desk, rather than risk accidents by carrying it in my pocket.

The time was much later than I thought, and a certain Chinese girl I was becoming fond of was expecting me for tea. I slammed the door of my office, turned the key in the lock, and hurried down the stairs. Half-way down I thought I heard a voice calling my name, but I didn't want to be made later still, so I ignored it and only hurried the faster.

The usual two sentries were on duty at the entrance of the building. One of them called my attention to the fact that someone was calling me.

I didn't even hesitate. I just said briefly that I had no time to stop to talk; then I turned the corner and hurried down the unlighted steps leading to the front of the building.

I wasn't present at what happened next, but I heard all about it very fully the next day.

The bright boy captain, who had always thought I was peculiar—I didn't go round with him or his crowd, but consorted with Asiatics, who were obviously not respected—was worried. I was a man who might be capable of anything. Perhaps it *was* a bomb I had left in my office. Perhaps I intended to blow up Mountbatten's H.Q.? He grabbed a telephone and poured out his suspicions to the Security Police.

Alarms and excursions followed post-haste.

Three jeeps full of armed soldiers were sent off to search the nearby streets for me. The sentries told them the way I had gone, and the haste I had been in.

Bomb experts were summoned by telephone.

Orders to evacuate the first and second floors were given. As it was Sunday, most of the rooms were empty, apart from the broadcasting people on the first floor.

Somebody yelled to clear the car park, and the shouts of people seeking their cars added to the confusion. One man thought there might not be time to find his car and began to run. That started it . . .

Meanwhile a squad had been assembled. It proceeded at the double to the suspect

office. The door was locked. They were told to break it down. They did so. The officers—there were four of them—entered the room. There on the desk before them was the mysterious parcel wrapped in newspaper.

Someone said "Listen," and every man held his breath. A faint, very faint ticking noise could be heard.

What would have happened next goodness only knows, but a *real* Army officer arrived. He walked straight over to the desk, pulled the paper wrapping off the bomb, and began to laugh.

Then he pulled open the partly closed drawer and picked up my merrily ticking watch . . .

The colonel who called me in to give me a "blast" the next morning wasn't laughing though. This was a very serious offence; I had made myself liable to all sorts of penalties. He did not know what would happen to me, but—

Then I asked if the local newspapers had got hold of the story yet . . . Eventually, after a lot of persuading and a few glasses of his gin, I promised to keep my mouth shut.

But I never got my bomb back.

JOHN HOGAN.

## Correspondent Wanted

A war-blinded Frenchman of the First World War, Mon. G. Fessard, is anxious to correspond with a St. Dunstaner. He is sixty-four and was blinded at Verdun in April, 1915, but retains light perception in one eye. He says that besides English, he practises several other languages and could exchange magazines in these languages.

The Editor will be glad to give his address to any St. Dunstaner who would like to write to M. Fessard.

## Another Radio "Ham"

From the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW (South Africa) we read that S. J. Schemper, of Cape Town, is an enthusiastic radio "ham." Since he received his amateur radio licence in 1952 he has spoken to 127 other "hams" in all parts of the world. (He has 117 cards to confirm the contact.) His call sign is ZSI Ontario, Denmark.



## St. Dunstaner Again Second in Stock Exchange Brighton Walk

As we go to press, Bill Miller has come second again in the Stock Exchange Athletic Club's London to Brighton Walk.

R. E. Green won the race in 8 hours 54 minutes 36 seconds—his fourth consecutive win over the 52 miles course. Bill Miller was second home, only seventeen minutes after him. Third was another Stock Exchange man with 9 hours 21 minutes 1 second.

This is what the *Financial Times* said:

"Held in conjunction with this event is the St. Dunstan's (London) annual race, which was again won by 'Dusty' Miller (Royal Engineers), the record holder, in 9 hours, 11 minutes, 11 seconds, only seventeen minutes behind Green.

"Les. Dennis (Royal Engineers) who will be competing in the Bath to London race—100 miles—in July, was second in 9 hours 52 minutes 40 seconds, and 61 year old Archie Brown (5th Cheshire Regiment), a centurion walker, was third in 10 hours 1 minute 3 seconds.

"Had this little band of war-blinded men, escorted by very notable walkers, have been eligible for the team race, they would have literally 'walked it.'"

## Sailplane Flights from Long Mynd

From "*The Times*," April 19th:—

"Two sailplane flights into Kent and one to Essex were made from here (Long Mynd, Church Stretton), to-day, at the Midland Gliding Club's Easter rally. Mr. Philip Wills, the British gliding champion, flew 204 miles to a point between Folkestone and Dover, and Commander Nicholas Goodhart, world gliding champion in the two-seat class, reached his declared goal at Lympne, 195 miles away."

## Election Result

In the municipal elections, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, M.C., was re-elected at Sutton Coldfield. In a 38 per cent. poll, he received 1,013 votes. His opponent received 573.

\* \* \*

Councillor Charles W. W. Cooper, of Worthing, has been elected Chairman of the Conservative Local Government Committee.

## Brighton Club

The St. Dunstan's Brighton Club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, and all St. Dunstaners in the Brighton area are cordially invited.

We had a most enjoyable outing to Rustington, where we were entertained to a most excellent tea by the Inter-Services Club, and this was followed by a first-class cabaret. There were two nearly full coaches.

\* \* \*

It is with very sincere regret that I have to report the death of our most beloved Club member, Mr. Freddie Fleetwood. He was the founder and "father" of the Club, and, in conjunction with his wife, who most ably assisted him, there was born that happy and harmonious community now known as the "St. Dunstan's Brighton Club." The cremation service took place on the 13th May, and was beautifully conducted by our own Padre, the Rev. Taylor. A lovely wreath was sent from his friends of the Club, who attended the service to pay tribute to one of nature's gentlemen.

FRANK A. RHODES,  
*Secretary.*

## Work for the Blind in Malaya

We have received two most interesting publications from the Malayan Association for the Blind, of which our St. Dunstaner, Major D. R. Bridges, is Hon. Secretary. Major Bridges is Blind Welfare Officer for the Federation of Malaya. Magnificent work is being done by the Association and a blind girl has recently been placed as a telephone operator—the first blind girl in Malaya ever to be trained and placed in this profession. Major Bridges says that she is only one of several young Malaysians for whom the future holds great hope.

## Mrs. Arnold

Miss B. Vaughan-Davies writes:—

"The news of the passing of Mrs. Arnold sends my thoughts to my very early St. Dunstan's days. Mrs. Arnold was my first Matron and I always thank her for training me in the ways V.A.D.s should go. She was strict, but kind, making me want to crawl into hiding if I disappointed her and jump for joy if she gave me a word of praise. Even yet I can hear her merry laugh!"

## Family News

Dorothy Cole, Lower Tuffley, Gloucester, was a soloist when Ribston Hall Choral Society gave a performance of "The Messiah" in Christ Church, Gloucester, recently. The local paper said: "Apart from the eminently fine solo performance of A. Steventon (bass), the most pleasing of the individual singers was diminutive Dorothy Cole (soprano), 17-years-old Ribston Hall sixth-former. Her voice rang sweet and fresh and true . . ."

Elaine Little, Carge, who is only eight, has been chosen to take part in the Highland Dancing Display at Carlisle Festival. She only began her dancing lessons at the beginning of the winter.

Little Jane Rowe, Minehead, has received a wonderful prize of toys for being declared "The Peach of the Beach" last summer.

Vanessa Etherington, Chertsey, has now won the bronze, silver and gold medals for Old Tyme Dancing.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Shirley Williams (Sheffield) to Brian M. Armstrong, on May 11th.

Peter Millen, Birchington, to Joy Barbara Vass, on March 30th.

David Loveridge, Harrow, to Cherry Minns, S.R.N., on March 2nd.

## Great Grandfather

W. Raine, of Maldon.

## Grandfathers

E. Astbury, of Saltdean; A. Morgan, of York (Eileen has had another son); T. Ashe, of Lancing (the third grandchild); F. J. Robbins, of Almondsbury, near Bristol; J. Halsall, of Southport.

## Ruby Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin, of Goldsithney, Cornwall, and to Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hill, of Devizes, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding (forty years) on the same day, April 21st.

## Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Spencer, of Gillingham, April 23rd. Congratulations.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with regret that Mrs. Lovett, of Enfield, widow of our St. Dunstaner, died on January 21st, and that Mrs. E. J. Summers, of Eastleigh, passed away on April 13th.

## After Fifty-five Years

*From the London "Evening News" May 8th:*

"A brother and sister met in London to-day for the first time since 1902.

Miss Florence Worldidge was only 17 when she last saw her brother Samuel, who lives at Dollis Hill.

In France she worked with Nurse Edith Cavell. She made her home in France and lost contact with her family during World War I. Mr. and Miss Worldidge were reunited by a coincidence. 'My wife happened to hear about her when she went shopping in Wembley,' said Mr. Worldidge. 'The shopkeeper had the same name and mentioned the relative in France. It was Florence.'

Mr. Worldidge will never see his sister. He was blinded at Gallipoli."

## Births

BURNHAM.—On May 5th, to the wife of A. J. Burnham, of Headington, Oxon., a son—Barry Paul.

CARTWRIGHT.—On April 19th, to the wife of A. Cartwright, of Cardiff, a daughter—Wendy Margaret. (Mrs. Cartwright will be remembered as Miss Davies, Welfare Visitor for the Welsh Area.)

HARMER.—On April 6th, to the wife of A. J. Harmer, of Hastings, a son—Kevin John.

TEMPLE.—On April 15th, to the wife of B. Temple, of Petts Wood, a son—John.

## Marriages

KAVANAGH—DILLANE.—On April 13th, James Kavanagh, of Liverpool, to Miss Bridget Dillane.

KENNARD—PRICE.—On April 6th, V. Kennard, of London, N.W.1, to Miss Phyllis Price, of Guernsey.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

DAVIES.—To J. Davies, of St. Osyth, who lost his brother in February.

JUBB.—To B. Jubb, at present of Gravesend, whose father died on May 1st.

MCDERMOTT.—To J. McDermott, of Davyhulme, Manchester, whose mother died on April 20th. She was seventy-seven.



## “ In Memory ”

### Private William Cavanagh, *22nd Durham Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Cavanagh, of Patcham, Brighton. He was 74. He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1917, and trained as a boot-repairer and netter. He followed both occupations until 1936, when he gave up boot-repairing. In 1951 he gave up netting, and after a long period of ill-health he was admitted to West House, where he died on April 18th.

His St. Dunstan's friends, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Dickinson and Mrs. Dixon, attended the funeral. Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Cavanagh.

### Private Frederick Charles Fleetwood, *1st Worcestershire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of F. C. Fleetwood, of Brighton, at the age of 68.

Wounded at the Dardanelles, he came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1915. He was a mat-maker for a few years, then purchased a business for himself. He gave this up in 1928, later taking up netting and basketwork again, and he continued with the latter craft until 1954, when he lost his wife. Since Mrs. Fleetwood's death in March, 1954, he had been with his sister, but he had been ill for some time and he died in Ovingdean on May 7th.

He was a founder-member of the Brighton Club, and a tribute to him by Mr. Frank Rhodes, the secretary, appears on another page.

### Sapper Kenneth Jones, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of Kenneth Jones, of Maerdy, South Wales. He came to St. Dunstan's as recently as April, and was only 22 years old.

He was taken ill while serving in Malaya in August, 1956, and had been seriously ill since then. He leaves a widow and two baby daughters, to whom we send our deepest sympathy.

### Private Charles Edward Thomas, *6th Leicestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. E. Thomas, of Neasden. He was 57.

He trained in telephony at St. Dunstan's in 1918 and continued with his work until his admission to hospital on April 25th, where he died the following day. His death was a great shock to his friends.

“Charlie” Thomas was for some years a member of the “St. Dunstan's Singers.” His pleasant tenor voice was well-known among St. Dunstaners and, indeed, in many parts of the country, where he sang often in support of efforts for the Appeals Department.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Thomas and her daughter.

### Gunner Alfred Henry Robinson, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of A. H. Robinson, of Rayleigh, Essex, at the age of sixty-three.

He was discharged from the Army in February, 1919, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1938, when he trained as a basket-maker. He continued this work up to the time of his death, although his health had been poor for some time. Nevertheless, his death on April 29th was unexpected.

He leaves a widow and eleven year old son, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private William Victor Sargent, *10th Royal Fusiliers*

With deep regret we have to record the death of W. V. Sargent, of Bedford, which occurred on May 8th, within a month of his 60th birthday.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1917, after being wounded in France, and he trained as a joiner, and he continued with this work right up to his last illness. His speciality was picture frames and he utilised the front of his house as a shop window to display his goods. His work had been admired in Bedford for thirty-seven years.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Sargent, whom he met at St. Dunstan's, where she was working as a V.A.D.

### E. J. Deacon, *Eastern Command Camp*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of E. J. Deacon, of New South Wales, Australia, at the age of 70.

He served on the staff of Eastern Command Camp from July, 1941, until April, 1950, but in 1948 an accident on duty led to the eventual loss of his sight. He died in Concord Military Hospital in February last.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Deacon.

## Personal

Mss. Cavanagh wishes to thank Dr. O'Hara, and Matron, Sisters and Orderlies at West House for their kindness during her husband's illness.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## The British Legion Annual Conference

### Sir Ian's Last Year as President

THE annual Whitsuntide Conference of the British Legion was held this year at Douglas, Isle of Man. Sir Ian Fraser was re-elected President, but he told the delegates that he would not be offering himself for re-election after this year.

Recalling that it was at the Douglas Conference ten years ago that he was first elected President, Sir Ian went on:

"I will serve until the Annual Conference at Whitsun, 1958, and this will complete eleven years in which I have been your national president. I have been thinking that ten years was long enough and that it was time we had a change. But I offered to stay on another year because I think the next twelve months will be the most important year in the Legion's history.

"My reason for saying this is that I have no doubt that the Government will make a major reform in War Pensions during this Parliament. Having taken part in the War Pensions Campaign for the last ten years, I naturally want to see the fruits of this exceptional representation."

Sir Ian reaffirmed the Legion's determination to press forward with the 90s. a week "basic" claim and continued: "Although a small number of very severely disabled persons have been treated with relative generosity, the fact remains that over 90 per cent.—600,000 in all—of war pensioners are now being paid weekly amounts which are actually and relatively inadequate having regard to the general improvement in the standard of living."

Wages, salaries and profits had risen considerably and quickly. War pensions, especially the basic rate applicable to the majority, had risen little and slowly. The Legion's claim would cost twenty million pounds a year. To do the right thing as he saw it would not mean an increase in taxation, but possibly a slightly lower rate in its reduction. A measure of what the Legion was asking for the war pensioner was the equivalent of only four hours extra work per year by every working man. Many Legion officers did more than four hours voluntary work in a week.

Concluding, Sir Ian said: "After I have ceased to be your President, I hope that from my place in Parliament, I shall still be able in various ways to help ex-servicemen and women and blind people, whose welfare is very near to my heart."

Among those present at the Conference were two St. Dunstaners—Mr. Howard Simcocks, M.H.K., who is an Advocate at the Manx Bar, and who had taken a leading part in the arrangements for the Conference, and Mr. T. N. Christal, who is a master at King William's College, Isle of Man. Whilst in the Island, Lady Fraser visited a very early St. Dunstaner, Mr. W. Christian, of Douglas.



The famous diarist, Atticus, wrote in the *Sunday Times* :—

“There will be sad hearts when it becomes known to-morrow that Sir Ian Fraser is giving up as his post as National President of the British Legion. For ten years he has led and guided the Legion with an energy that has never flagged. I hope that this is not the beginning of a retreat from his other activities, including membership of the House of Commons.

“Sir Ian was blinded whilst serving in France in the 1914—18 war, but with a spirit that could not be crushed he determined to live and work and serve as though he were the same as other men. He has business interests in South Africa and flies out there each year to see that things are going right. As Chairman of the Executive Council of St. Dunstan's since 1921 he has helped hundreds to find a full life in the realm of darkness.

“Almost every evening his wife comes to Westminster to drive him home when Parliament rises. To dine with the two of them at the House is to enjoy a gay party. The mutual consideration and the laughter when they are together are a joy—yet he has never seen her face. This is a man! And this is a woman!”

### The Honours List

Our warmest congratulations to our St. Dunstaner, Major David Ronald Bridges, Blind Welfare Officer in the Department of Social Welfare, Federation of Malaya, who received the honour of Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Major Bridges married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Clutha Mackenzie.

✱ ✱ ✱

Mrs. Olive Kersley, a Vice-Chairwoman of St. Dunstan's (South Africa) Bulawayo Branch Committee, received the M.B.E.

✱ ✱ ✱

Mr. H. C. McCoy, Chairman of the Trustees of the New Zealand Institute for the Blind, was awarded the O.B.E.

### Personal

Our President, Sir Neville Pearson, entered hospital on May 9th to undergo an operation on his knee. St. Dunstaners will be glad to know that it was successful and that Sir Neville has now left hospital, but to his and our regret he was prevented from attending the Freemasons' Dinner at Brighton May 15th and the Newcastle Reunion on May 23rd.

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Air Commodore Dacre, who has suffered from a duodenal ulcer for some time, underwent an operation at the King Edward VII Hospital, London, recently. He is now well on his way to recovery.

### St. Dunstaner's Great Work

On May 17th, Sir Ian Fraser opened a new Social Centre for the Warrington, Widnes and District Society for the Blind.

Sir Ian, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, had gone to Warrington at the invitation of their old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Furness. Mr. Furness is a St. Dunstaner who met Sir Ian in the early days of the First World War, and he is himself one of the finest exponents of the teaching of St. Dunstan's. By profession a distinguished research chemist, he became Manager of the Research Department of Messrs. J. Crosfield, but for more than thirty years he has worked tirelessly for other blind people. He is Chairman of the Warrington and Widnes Society for the Blind, which he and his wife were largely instrumental in founding in 1925, and as Sir Ian said, “has contributed more than any other single person to the comprehensive, up-to-date and generous-hearted provision which Warrington makes for its blind people.”

Although the local authorities now are responsible for the workshop under the 1948 Act, Mr. Furness continues to care for all social activities at the Council's request. Sir Ian said: “You might have thought that when the workshops were municipalised, the voluntary spirit would have died. On the contrary, it took a new lease of life. Under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Furness and local helpers, the social services have been developed and maintained, culminating in this new splendid Centre which I am to open.”

## London Club Notes Derby Day

"I've got a horse." That was the cry as the coach moved off from the London Club on Derby Day to the strains of "Oh! Oh! Crepell-io." Harry-Boy, with his concertina, supported by Bill and Charlie with their mouth-organs, made up our Skiffle Group. Thus the tone was set for the day's outing.

We soon heard Bob Willis shout, "Do we have a sweep, although there will be ten blanks?" "Of course we have a sweep." Had we not already had three bob back from our quid?

We arrived in good time at Epsom and then out came the eats and drinks. Plenty of beer, jolly good food, then a walk round to see where we should lose our money.

The weather was perfect so we all enjoyed the fresh air. One bookie went broke, but none of us was responsible for that as we were all a bit bent ourselves.

All went well for the journey home. We sang all the way as if we had won pounds, for we look upon this trip as one big party and an annual affair for most of us.

We did not stop for tea this year and got back to the Club about 6.30, where Mrs. Willis provided us with tea and biscuits. A good finish to the day, and our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Willis. It was so well organised and a lovely time was had by all.

Looking forward to next year,

BILL LACEY.

## Outdoor Section

### Five Mile Walking Match

St. Dunstan's v. Erycinus S.C. v. Pearl S.C.  
Regent's Park, Tuesday, 30th April, 1957

MATCH RESULT (three to score)

1	Erycinus S.C.	1, 5, 6	12 points
2	St. Dunstan's	2, 3, 7	12 points
3	Pearl S.C.	4, 12, 13	29 points

St. Dunstan's v. Bowring S.C.

Regent's Park, Tuesday, 7th May, 1957

Order of  
Finish

Club	Time	All.	H'cp.	Pos.
1 J. Comber	... B.S.C.	41:26		
2 J. Culver	... B.S.C.	44:45		
3 W. Miller	... St. D.	44:45	Scr.	44:45 4
4 A. Brown	... St. D.	46:42	2:20	44:22 3
5 T. Gaygan	... St. D.	47:55	4:00	43:55 2
6 S. Tutton	... St. D.	48:05	4:40	43:25 1
7 J. Gunn	... B.S.C.	48:32		
8 A. Bradley	... St. D.	49:08	4:20	44:48 5
9 G. House	... B.S.C.	49:41		
10 H. Sykes	... B.S.C.	51:40		
11 S. Croucher	... B.S.C.	58:15		

MATCH RESULT (five to score)

1	St. Dunstan's	3, 4, 5, 6, 8	26 points
2	Bowring S.C.	1, 2, 7, 9, 10	29 points

## The Derby Sweepstake, 1957

Enthusiasm for our own Derby Sweepstake does not grow less with the years, and the number of tickets sold—2,966—was only eight short of last year, which itself was almost a record.

The draw was made at the London Club on Thursday, May 30th. Many St. Dunstaners and their wives and escorts were there to watch the proceedings. St. Dunstaners Sammy Webster, Charles Hancock and Freddy Winter made the actual draw, with Mr. Bob Willis as Master of Ceremonies. Miss Morrah and other old friends were also present.

After printing and postage expenses had been deducted (£24), the balance to be distributed in accordance with the published rules was £346 15s., and the final result was as follows:—

1st	Crepello	A. J. Colclough (2248)
	Stoke-on-Trent	£173 7s. 6d.
2nd	Ballymoss	G. W. Pell (848)
	Hove	£69 7s. 0d.
3rd	Pipe of Peace	F. Bush (1866)
	Elland	£34 13s. 6d.

Nineteen ticket-holders drawing starters each received £2 13s. 0d. They were:

Albergo	A. H. Craigie, Brighton	80
Alcatus	R. H. Cook, London, E.4	2730
Apostol	G. R. Bickley, London, S.W.4	1252
Barred Rock	J. H. Burt, Southampton	109
Bois de Miel	P. Spencer, Weston-super-Mare	477
Brioche	F. Winter, Henley	684
Chevastrid	W. Harding, London, N.4	1232
Chippendale II	F. Stratton, Shirebrook	2471
Doutelle	E. H. North, Taunton	594
Eudaemon	S. Jennings, Bradford	1764
Hedonist	F. Winter, Henley	2495
Lightehran	L. Ollier, Bury	720
London Cry	E. W. Read, Portchester	1867
Messmate	B. Murton, Faversham	165
Mystic Prince	C. F. Roughton, Hailsham	1392
Palor	C. H. Cornwell, Rottingdean	1514
Prince Taj	G. M. Jordan, Hove	385
Royaumont	L. R. Coussins, Southwick	556
Tempest	B. A. Hamilton, Thetford	2071

It was very hard luck that H. W. Matthews, of East Wittering, drew Bellborough (Ticket No. 1698) which was the only horse scratched. The Field was drawn by A. Tillotson, Blackpool (Ticket No. 926).

✱ ✱ ✱

Writing to acknowledge his prize-money, Mr. Colclough said: "It came as a wonderful birthday present, as I was 62 on the 8th of June, and it was also our 38th wedding anniversary, so you can guess how we all felt."



## The Deaf-Blind Reunion

Home again after spending a wonderful Reunion at Ovingdean. We started off with a lovely dinner, with Matron and Commandant, and had lots to talk about. We went to London Airport and had a very interesting day and another lovely lunch in the Queen's Room.

Some of us went fishing off the West Pier. The fish were very shy and we were on the point of throwing the rods into the water when one gave itself up. That won us a prize. It could have been put into a 50-cigarette box and still be able to move, but many thanks to the Everyman's Angling Club in Brighton for a very nice day, and that includes the little boy who was so kind to us.

Our final dinner as usual was at Strood's. Mr. Wills and the Vicar from the Brighton Deaf and Dumb Club joined us. In the afternoon we had had tea with Lady and Sir Ian Fraser. We all had different things to tell Sir Ian and he was very interested.

I would like to thank all staff at Ovingdean and West House for making our Reunion a very happy time. Every time we go we find new faces amongst the V.A.D.s, yet still they can speak to us as if they had known us for years, and first class they were at the job. We all knew that they were short of staff and yet everyone had a word for us. Matron and Mrs. Macdonald saw we were not left out of anything. Many thanks to all who made us happy.

All the boys will be home now at their jobs. As for me, my tomatoes and egg plants are doing very well.

BILLY BELL. *Newcastle.*

## Great-Grandfathers

I. Corns, of Hampstead, whose eldest grandchild, living in Australia, had a son on the mother's 26th birthday.

J. Bentley, of London, N.12, whose fifteenth great-grandchild has arrived.

## Grandfathers

Canon W. G. Speight, of Oakham.

W. A. Brookes, of Southampton (Mrs. Brookes *nee* Miss Arnold, of West House, has had a son).

G. Davis, previously of Gloucester, and now of Brighton.

W. McCarthy, of Manchester. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy, who are at present visiting their children and grandchildren in Canada, were presented with a grand-daughter a few days after their arrival.

## Talking Book Library

### June's Jaw

Five more new ones to tickle the old eardrums. The mixture as before thus:

"Bless This House," by Norah Lofts, reader Andrew Timothy, is a saga of a house built in the days of Elizabeth I, spanning the years up to the present day. An interesting East Anglian yarn set on the border of Suffolk.—*Cat. No. 68.*

"The Mill on the Po," by Riccardo Bacchelli, reader Andrew Timothy, traces the career of an Italian survivor of Napoleon's Moscow fiasco. He eventually settles comfortably on the Po (the river, not the utensil) and thrives, despite brushes with smugglers and the troubled, corrupt state of the Italy up to 1860. His son, a proper Charlie, figures in a somewhat sticky *dénouement*.—*Cat. No. 96.*

"Someone at a Distance," by Dorothy Whipple, reader Andrew Timothy, is a homely, true-to-life sort of tale. A French girl, crossed in love, leaves home, comes to England, and quite casually breaks up a happy home. The publisher-husband liked the smell of her and left his wife and teenage daughter. However, the whiff proved to be only chloroform and his misery then equalled his insanity before.—*Cat. No. 139.*

"The High and the Mighty," by Ernest Gann, reader Stanley Maxted, gathers together the life threads of a plane-load of people crossing the Pacific towards San Francisco. Things go wrong and the tremendous tension reveals the unsuspected quality of each member aboard.—*Cat. No. 968.*

"To Let Furnished," by Josephine Bell, reader Marjorie Anderson, was also released.—*Cat. No. 101.*

"NELSON."

## Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Condon, of Basingstoke, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 8th.

Among the many messages of congratulation they received was one from H.R.H. The Princess Royal, to whom our St. Dunstaner was presented, with Queen Mary, in September, 1917.

## Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. H. Prior, of Portchester, April 7th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Watford, of Cudham, near Sevenoaks, on April 30th. Congratulations.

## Reunions

Our Scottish St. Dunstaners met at Edinburgh on May 21st, and although it was only a small meeting, it was a most enjoyable one. It was held for the first time at the Roxburghe Hotel, Mr. D. G. Hopewell presiding.

The Newcastle meeting on May 23rd was, as always, a very lively one. Mr. Hopewell again presided and during the afternoon the guests were entertained by Mr. Fred Lawson with popular songs, which were much enjoyed by the St. Dunstaners present.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present at the Bournemouth Reunion on June 1st. Speaking at the meeting, Sir Ian said:

"Amongst our number is a small band of most grievously disabled men, namely, those who are both deaf and blind or who have lost their hands as well as their eyes. Some of the obvious benefits of St. Dunstan's, such as radio and the Talking Book, cannot be made available to the deaf, and we try in various other ways to help them. For example, many of the staff at Ovingdean and at West House can talk fluently on the hand by means of the manual alphabet. I attended a special Reunion of deaf St. Dunstaners at Ovingdean the other day and was deeply impressed by the ready manner in which conversation went on between the staff and deaf men, and between the deaf men themselves. Many St. Dunstaners who can hear have also learnt the deaf language so that they can talk to their fellows. This is a most admirable and kindly service and I praise all those who have learnt the manual alphabet and encourage as many as possible to try. If you are deaf as well as blind you are terribly cut off from the outside world and it is up to each one of us to help to break down this barrier.

"The problem for the handless St. Dunstaner is a different one, but here again our experimental workshop has devised all kinds of gadgets to help.

"I have said that some 500 St. Dunstaners are sixty-five years of age or over. The ageing of our membership brings special problems, and we do much in our Welfare Department to meet the needs of this group."

Sir Ian reminded his audience of the four Homes at Brighton, namely, Ovingdean, where training was continued though the beds were now mainly given over for periods of holiday and convalescence.

West House, which was primarily set aside for permanent residents who were lonely or ill. The Girls' Home, Port Hall, and the Children's Home, Northgate House.

Eight hundred St. Dunstaners enjoyed holidays at Ovingdean last year. At West House there were 60 beds mainly for permanent residents, but including a most valuable hospital element. Seventeen women St. Dunstaners went to Port Hall for holidays, and 38 St. Dunstaners' wives, who were particularly ill, were provided with holiday and convalescent periods. At Northgate House, 190 children were looked after during the year.

No body of disabled ex-servicemen had such a complete system of training, settlement and welfare as St. Dunstan's. They were proud of the example they had set to ex-service world as a whole.

Concluding, Sir Ian said: "Each one of you by your example has made his own contribution to the success of St. Dunstan's and the high regard in which it is held in the world."

## Presentation to Miss Wilson

The Leeds Reunion on May 25th was of course, a very special one, for it was the occasion of the presentation to Miss Wilson. Mr. Hopewell welcomed the many guests who were present and then Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, introduced to the company Mr. Charles Temperton, M.M., who made the presentation to Miss Wilson of a gold watch and a cheque on behalf of the men of the Northern Area. This he did most capably. Miss Wilson, in her reply, reminded her hearers how she had come to St. Dunstan's, "for the duration" of the 1914-18 war, but had stayed thirty-nine years. She said how much she would miss her "family."

Mr. T. Niccol, of Harrogate, expressed everyone's appreciation of all the arrangements which had been made for this memorable occasion and then, while Miss Wilson remained in her place at the table, all those present formed a queue to see her watch and to shake her hand.

## From Miss Wilson

DEAR "NORTHERNERS,"

As a climax to several weeks during which I received so many wonderful expressions of goodwill on my retirement, Charlie Temperton, of Hull, on behalf of you,



friends in the Southern Area and Overseas, presented me with your farewell gifts at the Leeds Reunion.

I am overwhelmed by your generosity—the gold watch is absolutely charming, and I am getting great joy in planning something for the house and garden with the cheque to remind me of you always.

To each and all I can only say a big "Thank you," not only for this marvellous presentation, but for the many happy years together and all your grand good wishes which have helped so much in laying down tools.

I shall miss you and the loyal staff of St. Dunstan's very much, but shall look forward to seeing you at Reunions, and am happy to feel that already Miss Midgley is quite "at home" with you all.

God bless you, your wives and families always.

Yours very sincerely,

MARIE K. WILSON (*alias* M.K.W.).

## The British Legion Conference

At the British Legion Conference held at Whitsun, Conference renewed its pledge to to fight on for the 90s. a week basic pension and proportionately increased allowances for war widows.

The following were among other resolutions passed:

That post-war credits should be paid immediately to all ex-servicemen invalided from the Service, irrespective of their age, or to their next-of-kin if they have died since leaving the Service.

That the war pensions of war widows should be exempt from income tax.

That the cash award to holders of the Victoria Cross should be increased from £10 to £100 per annum.

That the co-operation of the Government and Service Departments be invited in setting up an insurance scheme which would safeguard all serving men and their dependents in the event of wounding, injuries, disease and death occurring during service, such insurance to be additional to the normal State benefit.

A motion protesting against the appointment of ex-Nazi General Speidel as Commander of N.A.T.O. was also passed unanimously.

## An N.C.O. Who Saved a St. Dunstaner's Life

Before the preview of the Royal Tournament in London recently, Corporal Reguton, of the King's African Rifles, whose splendid performance is a feature of this year's show, met again Lieut. Michael Tetley, M.B.E., whose life he saved in Kenya in February, 1954.

We take the following from the *Daily Telegraph*:

"The corporal, who was mentioned in despatches, straddled Lt. Tetley while beating off a Mau Mau attack with a Sten gun.

"The lieutenant was blinded by a bullet through the head in the action, and when he and his former batman met in the arena (at Earl's Court) he used his white stick as a rifle to explain how Cpl. Reguton had saved his life on another occasion. The corporal shot a terrorist in the nick of time."

## Miss Naisi Gordon

We regret to announce the resignation, on the 31st May, of Miss Naisi Gordon, who joined our Welfare Visiting Staff in November, 1948.

Miss Gordon visited our men in Scotland and the Border Counties until June, 1955, when she assumed responsibility for the Midlands area, and her work for St. Dunstan's during her years of service is very much appreciated. We all send her our very best wishes for the future.

Miss Gordon will be succeeded on the 16th July next by Miss B. R. Blebta, of 54 Alcester Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, who comes to us from the Stratford-on-Avon Hospital, where she at present holds the position of Ward Sister. Miss Blebta has had considerable experience of welfare work during her past career which will stand her in good stead in her new post.

## Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. L. Price, of Manor Park, whose Silver Wedding was on June 12th.

✱ ✱ ✱

Mr. A. Mace, who went to Australia ten years ago, now has his clinic and residence at 4 Alameda, 806 Military Road, Mosman, Sydney. Will his physiotherapist friends please note his new address as it may be some time before he can notify all of them.

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Mr. George Fallowfield's argument is strong enough to impel me to cast my vote against condensing books specially for the blind before translating into Braille or Talking Book. His objections would presumably not apply to Braille books which have been published for sighted readers in a shortened version. I therefore hope that, having selected our books, the Committee concerned will continue to follow the printed word.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. B. BUCKLEY. *Barnes, S.W.13.*

DEAR EDITOR.

Can I help you? In case you are looking for a home for one of the Sweepstake prizes, the enclosed ticket proves that my daughter drew a horse and I put in a claim on her behalf. Isn't English a silly language?

Sincerely,

GEOFF. PRESTON. *Addlestone.*

[Sure enough, little Gail *had* drawn a horse—on the back of her father's ticket! And this suggests a competition. Can you suggest a list of phrases (not more than ten) each of which might be taken two ways? No illustrations needed. There will be 10s. 6d. for each list used and, of course, the Editor's decision is final. Entries to 1 South Audley Street, please.—ED.]

## South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group

At the 17th annual meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group, which has given us such wonderful help through its organiser, Miss Mary Jameson, M.B.E., two St. Dunstaners, Messrs. W. H. Lacey and L. Dennis, were interviewed by Major Basil Curtis. Mr. Lacey delighted the audience by concluding with a song and monologue of his own composition, and everyone wished Mr. Dennis well in his coming "century" walk from Bath to London.

This year's guest performer was Mr. David Buchan, who gave improvisations on the piano, followed by a "Name the Tune" quiz.

The Chairman, the Rev. D. Ingram Hill, who is leaving South Norwood, was presented with a St. Dunstan's oak tray, and handed a letter expressing Sir Ian's warm appreciation of his work for St. Dunstan's.

## The Dog

The human who has never welcomed the adoring attentions of either a dog or a cat could not welcome anything. For he, or she, is so wrapped up in self-love that the world outside is a complete mystery to them. If you are one of these, please do not read any further, as it will not interest you.

The scene of this story is set in the little Hampshire township of Basingstoke. The period is between the autumn of 1945 and the spring of 1946. I was then stationed there as an employee of the M.O.S. (Inspectorate of Fighting Vehicles division), and my story is based on my own observations and that which was told me by the townsfolk. The district is that adjacent to Worting Road, at the top of which hill is a well-known motor works.

Every morning, just before 8 a.m., I would meet the dog coming up the hill, trotting along with the workmen in the direction of the factory. As the "five to eight" buzzer blew as a warning to the workmen, the dog would break into a frantic gallop in order to reach the works before eight o'clock. His pace would outstrip even the fastest of the running men who were endeavouring to "beat the clock." The dog, I was informed, would stay quietly within the works until the mid-day interval warning sounded, and then it would sedately trot downhill to its home.

It appeared that the dog's master, who was dead, had been an employee of these works, and the dog was merely continuing with the routine that it knew so well. If any of the great family of St. Dunstan's live at Basingstoke now, and therefore have more recent knowledge of it than I, I should be very interested indeed to know of the end of the tale of the dog.

ERNEST E. J. S. BURTON.

## The Braille Reading Contest

St. Dunstaners from the Training Centre, Ovingdean, were among the competitors at the Braille Reading Contest held at the National Library for the Blind on June 1st. It was a particularly momentous occasion because Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was present.

Maurice Aldridge, who this year had to compete in a higher grade, was highly commended for his poetry reading.



## "Operation Ebbie"

Fools step in where angels fear to tread, so goes the old saw, but Ebbie, as we all know, walks and walks to wherever he wishes. Possessed of that weird thing called "guiding vision," he told me he could easily find his way over the quick cut across the Downs, past the Plough and up to Whiteways, so on this glorious afternoon I expected him, and of course he arrived. Now some folk appear with a fanfare of trumpets, some creep upon you unaware, but Ebbie appeared with his voice hooting out in full cry.

It was thus; he left Ovingdean, navigated Rottingdean High Street, passed the Plough, and with his face towards the East, he set his feet firmly upon the white chalky road and followed the dazzle and well defined track. All went well and after some eight or ten minutes he discerned a shadow on the skyline. "Success!" this was it, this must be the road, so on to the tarmac road he went, and soon discovered a car being tinkered with. With an air of knowledge he asked, was this Lustrells Vale? A charming young lady said, "No." So, explaining his predicament he was told that the lady would take him to the correct road.

So Ebbie, escorted by his lady, whose garb was but a wasp-like bathing dress, was soon placed farther along the Downs, and so into the top of my Vale.

Profusely thanking his charming escort he said all was well, he knew the house and so turned his steps to my direction. He found the house, as he thought, then found the front door was not there, so carefully stepping over the wire fencing he proceeded past the wall with no front door and found the back garden.

Here all was peace, no sound disturbed the tranquillity, no sound from the house, and no doors open, so raising his by no means feeble voice he boomed, "Where are you John? Wake up, I'm here."

At this moment I was in my bedroom putting some things away so hastened out into my garden calling, "Where are you?" The effect was immediate. Ebbie was in my neighbour's garden, and with a burst of laughter he retraced his steps, round my neighbour's house into the road

and so into my front path, and found my front door where it should be, and in a few minutes was quenching his thirst and explaining things.

They say, "None so blind as those who will not see," but to we St. Dunstaners the motto is, "See what I can and guess the rest."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

## An Interesting Reunion

On June 16th, J. W. Evans, of West House, who is a survivor from the "Lancastria," which was sunk in June, 1940, during the evacuation of France, attended a reunion of survivors from this disaster.

The day began with the laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph by Captain Niccols, who actually saved our St. Dunstaner's life at the time. There followed a trip up the river, a visit to the Tower of London, and then a meal. Each one present was presented with a handsome 'survivor's tie.'

Should any other St. Dunstaners be survivors from the "Lancastria," Major C. V. Petit, of 161 Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2., would be very interested to hear from them.

(The previous two items were too late for inclusion in the *Braille Review* and will appear next month).

## From All Quarters

R. Coupland, of Hessle, Hull, was presented to Her Majesty the Queen as the representative of the Wholesale Trade when she visited the Fish Docks, Hull, recently.

✱ ✱ ✱

H. White, of Stalybridge, was re-elected in the municipal elections for the Lancashire Ward of Stalybridge for the fourth time, and with an increased majority.

✱ ✱ ✱

Micky Burns, who contested the Chalkwell Ward of Southend, was unsuccessful, but he doubled the poll for the previous year.

✱ ✱ ✱

W. Griffiths, of Blackburn, obtained third place at the Blackburn Music Festival, with 83 marks. The first and second prizes were won by 87 and 84 marks respectively.

## Family News

Monica Durkin, Tunbridge Wells, was involved in a serious car accident last month when the car she was in with three friends hit a bank and overturned. Monica was the only one not rendered unconscious, and though badly bruised and shaken, she was able to leave hospital a few days later. One of the other passengers, the father of a friend, was killed.

The daughter of R. Seymour, of Warrington, was a Standard Bearer at the British Legion (Women's Section) Conference at the Royal Albert Hall last month.

Gerald Horner, Holmfirth, now on National Service, will be part of the Guard of Honour when the Queen goes to Balmoral.

Singing with their school choirs in big public performances have been Malcolm Simpson, Doncaster, and the eight year old daughter of G. Poole, of Preston.

Jeanette Brooks, Welwyn Garden City, has won a silver medal for dancing.

Thirteen year old David Knappe, Handcross, with his Scout Patrol, took part in the Tinsley Green Marbles Championship for the Youth of Great Britain. They won.

Helen Embleton, Trimdon Village, last term gained her hockey colours (a year ahead); she sings, too, and was in the school's production of "Iolanthe" recently.

## Marriages

Kenneth Horner, Holmfirth, on June 8th, to Miss Kathleen Hallas.

Morris Storer, Rugby, on April 29th, to Miss F. Bradbury.

Maurice Mash, St. Heliers, on June 1st, to Miss Alma K. Wilkinson.

## National Egg Laying Test

Report for the 8th Period of Four Weeks,  
April 23rd—May 20th, 1957.

Score Value to date

1. Bagwell, Philip	...	...	855
2. Holmes, Percy	...	...	680
3. Webb, W.	...	...	665
4. Dix, John A.	...	...	555
5. Smith, W. Alan	...	...	463

Average number of eggs per bird per month, 17.94.

Average number of eggs per bird to date, 118.97. D.W.F.

## Ovingdean Sports Day

Ovingdean Sports and Garden Party will be held on Saturday, 6th July. Entries for the field events will be taken on the field. St. Dunstaners wishing to attend, if they will not be staying in the building, are asked to apply to Miss Guilbert in writing. A ticket for tea for a St. Dunstaner and escort will be sent. Any additional ones required may be obtained at the charge of 1s. 0d. per head.

## The Passing Years

*Now we have passed three score and ten, our  
minds look back across the years*

*To happy care-free days when we and love were  
young,*

*We love the part of England's garden where we've  
lived since we were born,*

*We lov'd to walk along the field paths and the  
lanes,*

*To wander in the meadows when the sun was  
going down,*

*However oft we passed those ways, 'twas never  
quite the same.*

*There was always something fresh to see and some  
new sound to hear,*

*And then there were the lovely scents diffused from  
tree and flower,*

*We lov'd to walk along the lane when moon and  
stars were shining bright,*

*For then romance was in the air, 'twas Fairyland  
just made for two,*

*And we would dream of days to come when we  
more closely knit would be,*

*And in due time we pledged our troth, to love  
and cherish long as both should live,*

*We shared life's joys, and when the strains and  
stresses came, as come they do,*

*Each to the other courage gave until the strain  
was safely passed,*

*And through the passing years, the bond which  
bound us closer grew,*

*And now we reap the fruits of those past years,  
Peace, contentment, happiness.*

*"Love conquers all things," a Latin proverb says,  
And we do feel that we have proved it true,*

*And in that faith we face the years that lie ahead  
until the time of parting comes.*

W. C. HILLS.

Shatterling, nr. Canterbury.



## “In Memory”

### Sergeant Frederick Ernest King, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

St. Dunstaners of both wars will hear with deep regret of the death of “Freddy” King, of Patcham, Brighton. He was 62.

When he first came to St. Dunstan's, in December, 1918, he worked on baskets. Then he had a shop, and later he ran an allotment and greenhouse. When the 1939-45 war broke out he was engaged as a braille teacher at Church Stretton, and he continued this when we returned to Ovingdean, but ill-health forced him to retire in February of this year. On June 2nd he had a stroke and he died in West House, where he had been taken, the following day.

There were many of his St. Dunstan's friends at the funeral.

A single man, he had been cared for by his widowed sister, Mrs. Wood, and our deep sympathy is offered to her.

### Private Thomas Shepherd, *7th South Lancashire Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of T. Shepherd, of Cliftonville, Margate, at the age of 66.

He first came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1915, when he met Sir Arthur Pearson; he stayed for two weeks but returned the following June and trained as a poultry-farmer and mat-maker. Ill-health, however, forced him to give this up in 1923. Later he took a shop but gave this up also when he went to Australia in 1950, but returned the same year to settle in Margate. His health had deteriorated consistently and he died on May 28th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his wife and family, and especially to his daughter who with her mother, had nursed him.

### Private John Richard Ridley, *27th Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. R. Ridley, of Finchley, at the age of 67.

He came to us in March, 1919, and trained as a joiner, and he carried on this work until the end of 1956. In March of this year he went into hospital at Winchmore Hill and he died there on May 15th.

The flowers and St. Dunstan's wreath of poppies sent for the funeral were placed on the War Memorial of the Finchley Ex-Servicemen's Club, of which he was a life-long member.

To Mrs. Ridley and her family our very sincere sympathy is sent.

## Births

BROWN.—To the wife of J. R. Brown, of Liverpool, on May 16th, a second son.

NESBITT.—To the wife of A. Nesbitt, of Maidenhead, on June 4th, a son—Alexander Rodney.

NEWTON.—To the wife of R. Newton, of Oldham, on June 2nd, a daughter—Elaine Linda.

## Marriages

WILLIAMS—BENNETT.—On May 25th, T. A. Williams, recently of Sheringham, and now of Brighton, to Miss Mary Bennett, of Hove. John Mudge was best man and the vergers at the Church was also an old friend, Syd Kitson. The bride was for some months a V.A.D. at Ovingdean.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BUTLER.—To J. Butler, of Waterford, Ireland, whose wife died in hospital on May 29th.

BUTT.—To W. Butt, of Worthing, who has lost his sister.

DANCE.—To F. T. Dance, of Takeley, whose eldest son, with whom he had been living since the death of Mrs. Dance, died suddenly on May 18th, at the age of 44.

EDWARDS.—To J. Edwards, of Tottenham, whose wife died on June 17th.

KAY.—To A. Kay, of Letchworth, who lost his wife on May 23rd.

MURTON.—To B. Murton, of Faversham, Kent, whose wife died on June 18th.

NICHOLS.—To W. Nichols, of Colindale, and Mrs. Nichols, whose little grandchild, aged only seven months, has died.

SIMPSON.—To E. Simpson, of Salford, whose father has died after a long illness.

VICKERS.—To H. Vickers, of Bolton, whose wife died on May 13th.

## Holy Baptism

On April 6th, Nigel Mackenzie, son of Gordon and Rosemary Joan Smith, of Rottingdean, was baptized at St. Dunstan's Chapel, Ovingdean. The Reverend W. J. Taylor, Chaplain at Ovingdean, officiated.

Mr. Gordon Smith is one of our physiotherapists.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

THE pursuit of happiness is the aim of all mankind; it is certainly the aim of St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners.

But I wonder if happiness is really the right word. I think happiness is probably a condition which is too active to be maintained without an exceptional effort which tends to wear you out. I prefer the word contentment.

What can we do to contribute towards our own contentment? A satisfactory job is very important, so is an easy relationship at home. But there are also some positive steps we can take for our leisure hours or if we have retired. For example, I suggest that your pleasures will be all the greater if you think about them a little and plan them a little.

"I do not like walking," said my friend to me, "but I like a beer and the beer tastes infinitely better after a little walk." So he walks down to the local pub and gets full enjoyment out of the combined operation.

A little thought is all the more necessary if you are blind because your pleasures are inevitably somewhat limited. Instead of having a hundred things to do, perhaps there are only a dozen you can choose from. Perhaps at first none of the dozen really appeals to you and you are greatly tempted to turn sour about it, and say that there is nothing left worth doing. A more profitable approach is to study each of the dozen and discipline yourself to try one or more of them out and see where it leads. I can give a personal example. When I was a young man I did not care for cards and had never played bridge seriously, only taking a hand to make up a four, and then very reluctantly. After I was blinded, however, I found myself with time on my hands and realised that others enjoyed a game of bridge, and so with the patient help of one or two friends I studied the game, practised with braille cards and became reasonably good for what might be called family or friendly bridge. I am no match player, but for years I have enjoyed a game of bridge, partly because the mental effort is a diversion and a relaxation from my worries and partly because it is a sociable and friendly affair.

What can a blind man do by way of contrast from his work or after he has retired, to occupy his thought and time? Here is a list of some out-of-work occupations which bring recreation and pleasure to many St. Dunstaners.

There are games such as bridge, chess, draughts, dominoes. Then there is, of course, reading by braille or by means of the Talking Book. There is also public work on local Councils, Committee work, including the holding of office in Toc H, the Druids, the Buffaloes, the Masonic movement, the British Legion and so on. Then there is music, either for the listener or possibly playing an instrument yourself, and even this can be a solace and a pastime even if you can only strum a few chords, or play a tune on a single-note instrument; listening to other people talking and developing the art of drawing them out may be put on the list. Then I would add eating and drinking. To eat and drink merely



to satisfy hunger and thirst is to waste one of nature's best gifts, for a little thought about this commonplace subject can turn it into an art and this is true of the humblest table as well as for the man with a deep pocket.

Even the wireless may be wasted if it is improperly used for nothing is more tiresome than a surfeit of incessant noise, whereas a careful choice of suitable programmes at reasonable intervals can bring real satisfaction.

Perhaps the key for all of us, and especially for the blind, is to do the things you can do as well as possible and to learn, even at the cost of some trouble, to enjoy a lot of different things.

IAN FRASER

### Bridge Success

Congratulations to C. R. Bulman, of Beckenham, who, with Mrs. Bulman, in a team of four, finished top of the First Division of the South Eastern Bridge League last season and were recently presented with the handsome Shield and individual prizes.

Mr. Bulman is a member of St. Dunstan's team in the London Business Houses Competition.

### Calling Radio "Hams"

W. H. Harris, of Rushmere, Ipswich, served in World War I but only became a St. Dunstaner last February. He has been bedridden for a number of years, but he is a keen radio amateur and is the Hon. Secretary of the Radio Amateur Invalid and Bedfast Club. Our own John Proctor and Anthony Law are already among its members.

Bill Harris has sent the Editor a copy of "Radial," the Club's news-letter, as well as details of the Club, and interesting reading they make! The Club's chief aim is to provide added interest and help to invalids and blind persons who are Amateur Radio Transmitters or Short Wave listeners interested in the amateur bands. There is no subscription for membership.

If any readers have amateur radio as their hobby and would like to get in touch with Bill, the Editor will be very glad indeed to hear from them.

### From All Quarters

When, for health reasons, John Newton left Audenshaw to live in Southport, friends from his old firm, English Steel Corporation, and from the local inn, gathered together to make him a presentation of a musical beer-tankard and a cheque among other things. The tankard appropriately played "Auld Lang Syne." Mr. K. J. F. Clephaine, Works Manager of

English Steel, said that although the gifts had nothing to do with the firm officially, he was privileged to present them to one who had won respect in his own right as a good workman. His leaving would be felt by many friends.

★ ★ ★

John Windsor, of Vancouver Island, is the author of articles which have appeared in the *Daily Columnist*, of Victoria, British Columbia.

★ ★ ★

On June 15th, A. Hold, of Yeovil, received a Long Service Badge for twenty-seven years as a Bandsman in the Salvation Army. He writes: "This is only a very small number of years compared with my father, who is still actively engaged in 'Banding' at the age of 78, with 63 years' service as a Bandsman."

★ ★ ★

George Reed, who is a skilful ventriloquist, was pictured in the *Farnham Herald* entertaining young people and grown-ups at the local Church fête.

★ ★ ★

Tom Daborn, of Bexley Heath, has just used the trout rod which he won in a ballot some months ago. He writes: "My first fish was a bream of 1½lb. Then after a patient wait, and a steady battle that taxed the rod and line to the limit, I brought a cod of 5lbs. to the net. This was about four miles off Brighton. The rest of the bag was three pollock between 2 and 4lbs., and two very nice bream of around 2lbs. In all, a very good christening."

★ ★ ★

Telling us of his Ruby Wedding, which fell on June 29th, A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, writes: "We were married on June 29th while I was on leave and I left to rejoin my unit on the 30th, which was the last time I actually saw my wife, which must be unique even for St. Dunstan's."

## Reunions

Men of Devon and Cornwall met at Plymouth on June 4th and Mr. Wills presided over a very small but happy gathering.

The Bristol Reunion of June 15th brought together the remaining men of the West Country, and Mr. D. G. Hopewell, member of St. Dunstan's Council, presided over a very well-attended meeting, held again at the Grand Spa Hotel.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., with Lady Pearson, were welcome visitors at the Cardiff meeting on June 21st. During the afternoon the guests were entertained by songs from St. Dunstaners Mrs. J. Farrant and Melville Manners.

At Belfast, on June 25th, sickness unhappily kept a number of St. Dunstaners away, but, although so small, it was quite a lively meeting. Mr. Hopewell again presided, and Mr. W. R. Knox, Chairman of the British Legion, Northern Ireland, called in during the afternoon.

Dublin also proved a small meeting, again because of sickness, but, presided over by Mr. Hopewell, it went with a swing and everybody enjoyed themselves.

At Luton, on July 6th, Lt. General Sir Brian Horrocks, who is a member of St. Dunstan's Council, presided under heat-wave conditions. Sir Brian, who holds the ancient office of "Black Rod" in Parliament, and who will be very well known to many St. Dunstaners for his broadcasts, told of his pleasure in conducting a party of deaf-blind St. Dunstaners round the House of Lords last year. There was some lively entertainment at the Reunion during the afternoon, including a "skiffle group."

## Mr. Tom Watson

On Thursday, July 4th, there was a very pleasant ceremony at the London Club when St. Dunstaners gathered to make a presentation to Mr. Tom Watson upon his retirement. Mr. Lloyds introduced Mr. Sammy Webster who, on behalf of his St. Dunstaner friends, presented to Mr. Watson a wireless set. With it, he said, went their very good wishes for many years of happiness, and their thanks for his help over all the years.

## Mr. Don Tacon

On June 30th, Mr. Don Tacon emigrated to Canada; his wife and three sons will join him later. With his going, St. Dunstan's

loses a member of the staff who has given us loyal service for twenty-two years, broken only by his war service in the Royal Air Force.

Mr. Tacon, under Mr. Bennett, took a major part in building up the Nursery Furniture Department in the years between the wars, and this employment of First War men on the carpentry machinery used in the making of the furniture contributed greatly to the success of the training and settlement of St. Dunstaners in industry during and after the Second World War.

After his discharge from the R.A.F., Mr. Tacon settled in Manchester, where he became our Industrial Representative for the North East of England, covering an area which reached down to the Midlands.

Don Tacon's cheery personality and inexhaustible efforts made him a first-rate friend of every St. Dunstaner with whom he came in contact, and much as we regret parting with him, we all wish him the very best of luck and every success in his new life.

## First Letter from an Emigrant

H. G. Graves, formerly of Eastham, Cheshire, who with Mrs. Graves has left this country to join their daughters in California, writes:—

"After a restful and luxurious trip we arrived at New York at 9.30 in the evening, but did not go ashore until the following morning. Our heavy baggage was taken to the railway station and shipped to California and we were met by relatives who live in the eastern part of the U.S.A. We stayed in New York until the Friday, visiting some of the tourist attractions. We visited Albany, the capital of New York State; we also had a trip over the Mohawk Trail, which is a lovely wide road across the mountains and is tied up with the history of this country. . . . We returned to New York on May 24th and the following morning boarded the plane for California. The flight was non-stop through to Los Angeles. Having gathered three hours on the clock in the course of the flight, the three-thousand mile trip took 8 hours and 50 minutes. We had the whole of the family to meet us at the Airport.

"The climate here is very warm and dry, the temperature in the past week having been in the 80's. They tell me this is mild to what it will be later on in the summer."



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

The cost of living is the greasy pole down which the value of war pensions has slithered for many years. Like Mussolini's armies during the war, war pensions have managed to advance backwards.

Eleven years ago, the demand for a ninety shillings per week basic pension was reasonable when examined in the light of post-war reconstruction and the cost of living of the times. To-day, the situation is very different. Nothing concrete has been achieved in stabilising the cost of living. There is full employment and business is booming. Wages and profits have, in the main, held their own in the free-for-all that is still going on. The burden of the rise in the cost of living has in fact been carried by those who should have been the last called upon to bear the weight—the aged and the war pensioners.

How does one reach the conclusion that ninety shillings per week basic pension is an adequate target at which to aim? It certainly cannot be based on the cost of living index. Is it supposed to be the valuation of the loss of a full expectation of life? If so, the average full life must be rather empty. Surely the truth is that war pensions should represent the regard a nation has for her wounded. National disregard has placed them in a position where they must look after their own interests. To-day, the demand should be for a ten pounds per week basic pension. Ninety shillings per week is merely an acceptance of the situation existing at the present moment which in many cases almost amounts to an insult to the war-wounded.

Yours sincerely,

EDGAR R. ETTRIDGE, *Addiscombe.*

DEAR EDITOR,

May I be permitted to point out that the Fishing Competition held on the West Pier, Brighton, on May 19th is an annual event and in aid of St. Dunstan's, and six of our men are invited every year and, being a local man, I am usually sent an invitation to my home. This item was not part of the Deaf Reunion which was held during the previous week-end, as might have been thought from Mr. Bell's account of that. He was staying on here and, as he says, we had a most enjoyable day.

Yours sincerely,

G. FALLOWFIELD, *Ovingdean.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I was really interested in Ernest Burton's article, "The Dog," but then I suppose I can include myself as being one of those people who, according to Ernest, are not wrapped up in themselves, and I sincerely hope that he learns the conclusion of his story. I hope that we also may share the full story. Was the dog a guide dog that gallantly led and even raced his master to the factory, or was it merely performing an old-established habit after the need for performance had ceased? Still, as a dog-lover myself, I should hate to attribute mere selfishness and self-love to those who are perhaps allergic to animals, but I applaud Mr. Burton when he speaks of the satisfaction derived from genuine canine adoration.

Gone are the days when the blind man's dog was an object of sympathy to the public, who saw him sat beside the owner whose large white card appealed for their pity. Now the man is restored to usefulness and the dog elevated to almost human standards, for until you have known the life-long companionship of the dog that you cannot be without, you cannot know the affinity that grows. Even the shepherd whose dog works to order, or the farmer whose dog is a watch-dog living outside cannot, to my mind, come to regard the dog as we do who do not need words. Put your hat on and you hear the joyful yelp, the jump that tells you he is waiting, the tug given to the lead to say that all's clear. Thanks, Ernest, for the story, and let us hope that more faithful dogs find equally faithful masters where the love is mutual and not measured.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. RADFORD, *Castle Cary.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I would like, on behalf of all my St. Dunstan's friends, to thank the London Taxi Drivers for such a lovely and pleasurable day's outing to Worthing on June 17th.

From the time we left London everything possible was done to make the journey pleasant for us. Each driver, within only a few minutes, became an old friend. What a grand lot of people they were!

I can only hope that we who were lucky enough to have such a wonderful day's outing can show, in these few lines, our sincerest thanks for everything.

Yours sincerely, TED DUDLEY, *Croydon.*

## Tales of Ind

### Sidelights on the Indian Mutiny

This year records the centenary of the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny. These times are vivid in my imagination because I had, in my youth, the good fortune to know and to talk to people who actually lived through those stirring times.

One of them was my grandmother who, at only sixteen years, was married to a member of the British Army serving in India. At the time my grandparents were stationed at Barrackpore, a few miles from Calcutta, where the first incident took place. A Sepoy named Pandi struck a British sergeant-major whilst on parade. For many years afterwards all Indian soldiers were called Pandies.

My grandmother would tell me, for instance, how the bugles would sound in the middle of the night, and women and children would be hastily collected and guided to places of safety. It was in Meerut, some forty miles north of Delhi, that there was a general revolt of Indian troops, among them cavalry who fled to Delhi. When the General Commanding the troops heard of the incident, he is reported to have said "Don't worry. They are my boys and they will return." His "boys" did not return and were instrumental in raising the standard of revolt in Delhi, the siege of which by General John Nicholson lasted many months, and where he fell mortally wounded. His statue stands facing the Kashmir Gate, and his grave is in the nearby military cemetery. Nicholson was a legendary figure and there is still said to exist a Hindu sect which worships him.

I knew an old lady who was in Meerut when the revolt began. It was planned to start on a Sunday when the troops were at church parade, the idea being to blow up the church together with the occupants. An old woman was to sit some distance away and give the signal when the congregation were assembled. The plan misfired for some reason, but afterwards the order was given that all troops should be armed attending church parades, which remained in force until the British left India.

One of the most poignant experiences in my life was a visit to the Military Cemetery at Meerut. Grave after grave contained whole families, brutally murdered during those terrible times.

However, it was not all horror, loot, rapine and murder. There was a happier side. Many lowly Indians, servants and the like, at great personal risk befriended the Europeans and guided them to safety. Indian nurses took the babies and children of their masters to care for them.

Some few miles north of Meerut is the village of Sardana. It was at one time the capital of the Begum Samru. Her realm was as large as England and she was a forceful character. On her marriage to a soldier of fortune named Walter Reinhardt, she became a Christian. At the time of the Mutiny the village had become a Christian settlement, and the Begum's palace had become a school for girls. Hearing of the revolt in nearby Meerut, the Franciscan Father in charge of the settlement had taken his Indian orphans up to the flat roof of the church for safety and to pray. He was none too soon. Heavy blows were being struck at the gate in an attempt to break it down. Suddenly, when they had almost succeeded, the group of rebel cavalry, bent on murder and rapine, sprang to their horses and fled in terror. Nobody to this day knows what was the cause of this panic, "but there are more things in Heaven and Earth . . ."

DUNCAN MCALPIN, *Barnard Castle.*

### Double Meanings

Here are the first two entries for our Double Meaning competition:

*From Mrs. Margaret Stanway, Morecambe :*

Blowing your own trumpet.  
Being a wet blanket.  
Taking it with a pinch of salt.  
Biting off more than you can chew.  
Getting your teeth into it.  
Making a clean sweep.  
Showing his hand.  
Bowling a maiden over.  
At a loose end.  
Paddling his own canoe.

*And from G. L. Douglas, of Isleworth :*

He kept his eye on the clock.  
His breath came in short pants.  
The wounded German hadn't a mark on him.  
He had braille at his finger tips.  
I'm hungry and absolutely fed-up.  
She gave him socks.  
If you miss that ball you'll catch it.  
She led him up the garden path.  
Any others? Closing date: August 31st.



### Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding (forty years) on June 29th, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Burton, of Portchester, July 21st.

### Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Singleton, of Mark, near Highbridge, Somerset, June 23rd. Congratulations.

### Family News

The only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams, of Sheffield, has passed his final examinations to become a Doctor.

Norman Hunt (Hove) has graduated from Oxford successfully. He is at present serving with the R.A.F. (University Squadron) and has been promoted from Pilot Officer to Flying Officer.

John Richardson (Skegness), our late St. Dunstan's son, who is studying for the Church, has gained his degree at St. Chad's College, Durham. He was awarded a Class 2, Division II, Degree in Theology.

Valerie McDonald (Liverpool) has passed her final examination to become a Radiologist.

Arthur Dakin (Blackpool) has passed successfully his audition as Drummer in the Royal Artillery Band.

Wendy Homewood, East Dereham, is in hospital, and when the Queen and Prince Philip visited Norfolk recently she was pushed in her wheel chair to see them. To her great pleasure they both leaned forward to wave to her.

S. Doell, of Henfield, is very proud of his nephew in the R.A.F. He is a Wing Commander and has just been awarded the C.B.E.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On June 29th, Bruce Payne (Cardiff) to Miss Ann Lockton, S.R.N.

Gordon Holmes (Salfords, Surrey), on June 29th, to Miss Eileen Warne. Present at the wedding were Miss Lloyd and Mr. Osborne, son of Mr. Osborne, Mat Instructor.

### "Not Worth Seeing"

When Bill Lacey, of Tottenham, spoke at the annual meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group last month, he said:

"I was passing a cinema and some of the people who were coming out were saying 'It's not worth seeing.' These are the thoughts which came to my mind before I arrived home:

"Not Worth Seeing" *continued.*

"Not worth seeing," a phrase often used, How these few simple words I have oft-times abused.

Too late now to lament my poor education, My schooling was one of the shortest duration.

So if you can see, be sensible and wise, Just take my tip and look after your eyes, I cannot see now, aged thirty-two and forty, In turn I am sad, happy and sporty, To see a man sprint with the ball and then GOAL!

To snap up a catch, to bat and to bowl, Now this has gone, and dear faces with it, Life just goes on but there's happiness in it, One of God's greatest gifts human beings possess,

I value it thus, in these lines I've unfurled, Sight is the periscope of this whole world, And the reason these words have just sprung into being

Is that all of God's gifts are really worth seeing."

### Hobbies? Why not a Budgie?

I know many St. Dunstaners already have a pet budgie, but many have never thought of having one. I have two, both now at home since our cat, Smoky James, died last Christmas.

Big Joey was a birthday present and is a very handsome bird, rather snooty but talks a great deal. Not a very big vocabulary yet, but at least, when my mother or I come in, he pipes up with "Hello, here she comes. How are you, Joey?" He is a very lovely bird and extremely friendly. Of course, being a birthday gift he has a very super cage, complete with bath, etc.

Then there is "Little Joey." He was a funny little scarecrow when I agreed to bring him home about three months ago. Tiny and his mother had pecked all his feathers from his head and neck. He went into an extremely aged cage from the days when I had a canary before the war. No posh bath for Little Joey either, but he seems most content to have his daily bath in a little Pyrex dish. He is a wonderful talker; He is so tame now that if we put our hands in the cage to give him corn or water he sits on our hands and doesn't mind a scrap.

I only can talk to my birds when I am home from the workshop, but for those who are home most of the time why not consider having a budgie for a pal?

MAUREEN V. LEES.

## Ovingdean Notes

The annual Sports and Garden Party was held at Ovingdean on Saturday, 6th July. It was a fine, warm day, and although we were a little disappointed that the number of St. Dunstaners entering the Sports events was not higher, we were pleased to welcome a number of local St. Dunstaners with their escorts.

Sir Neville and Lady Pearson very kindly came along to present the prizes at the conclusion of the events. We were delighted to have them with us once again.

A number of "shots" for inclusion in the film being made about St. Dunstan's were taken during the field events.

Sports results:—

Throwing Medicine Ball:

- 1st, N. Daniels (Romford).
- 2nd, D. Parmenter (Brighton).
- 3rd, C. Fraser (Sunderland).

Sack Race:

- 1st, N. Daniels (Romford).
- 2nd, B. Rahim (Perivale).
- 3rd, A. Hobson (Hastings).

70 yds. Totally Blind:

- 1st, C. Fraser (Sunderland).
- 2nd, J. Meighan (Clacton).
- 3rd, J. Regan (Hastings).

70 yds. S-Sighted:

- 1st, N. Daniels (Romford).
- 2nd, A. Hobson (Hastings).
- 3rd, P. Holmes (Burgess Hill).

70 yds. (Open):

- 1st, D. Coupe (Preston).

Wheelbarrow Race:

- 1st, D. Parmenter (Brighton).

Three-Legged Race:

- 1st, D. Parmenter (Brighton).
- 2nd, J. Culshaw (Brighton).

Garden Party Competitions:—

Treasure Hunt—G. Stanley (Brighton).

Weight Guessing—M. Morgan (Brighton).

Darts—T.B. (Highest Score), C. Killingbeck (Saltdean).

Darts: S-Sighted (Highest Score), P. Holmes (Burgess Hill).

A word of thanks to our good friends the Scouts, who have come along for a number of years now to help with the preparations for Sports Day. Getting out chairs for the visitors, or helping to bring the tea down to the tea tents, it's all part of a day's work to them, and all done with the cheery goodwill we come to expect of these lads.

On Wednesday, July 10th, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Ovingdean and West House. At Ovingdean Sir Ian addressed the men in training and on holiday, telling them about the recent improvements in disability pensions and the allocation of accommodation at the Brighton Homes.

Sir Ian said: "Brighton and Hove people are the kindest anywhere. We have been a part of this community for more than forty years and we praise the towns and the citizens."

## Freddie King—A Tribute

Almost the first person I met on entering St. Dunstan's for training in 1942 was Freddie King. A quiet, unassuming man, with a sense of humour and a peculiar and lively yet serious interest in human nature and the problems of his fellow man.

During the Church Stretton days and since, he was guide, philosopher and friend to literally hundreds of men of the Second World War. Many difficulties in the human, domestic and social spheres have been resolved after a quiet chat and a few words of wisdom from Freddie. I feel I am voicing the sentiments of a lot of men when I say that something has gone out of life that cannot be replaced.

Freddie's job as a braille tutor brought him into much closer contact with the men than most of the other members of the staff, and because of that fact, plus his aptitude to smooth away difficulties, he has helped many a man over a bad period. A lot of his good work was unknown to and unnoticed by the powers that be. Nevertheless, he was a great asset to St. Dunstan's and a man we can ill afford to lose.

In the years between the wars, I understand he was a friend to the deaf-blind men, and was always a welcome guest at their Reunions. He was a well-known member of the Bridge Club, and in the Church Stretton days, quite a keen walker and hiker. In short, a fine teacher, a true friend and a loyal St. Dunstaner, above all a man, and one who will be sorely missed on our future visits to Brighton.

HARRY WHITE, *Stalybridge*.

★ ★ ★

Sir Victor Sassoon, whose horse, Crepello, ridden by Lester Piggott and trained by N. Murless, won this year's Derby, has sent Sir Ian £100 for St. Dunstan's to celebrate this.



## “ In Memory ”

Robert Clarence Billington, *Australian Imperial Forces*

We record with deep regret the death of R. C. Billington, originally of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, but who had been in hospital in England for very many years. He was at the 2nd London General Hospital during the First World War and later was transferred back to Australia. He eventually returned to this country but was admitted to hospital, where he stayed until his death.

Private John Edwin Mayes, *King's Own Scottish Borderers*

We record with deep regret the death on July 12th of J. E. Mayes, of Eytton, County Durham.

He served with his regiment from September, 1914, until February, 1919, being wounded the previous year, but it was only in February of this year that he entered St. Dunstan's. He was then a very sick man, and already in hospital in Gateshead.

He was a widower and our sincere sympathy is extended to his son and daughter-in-law.

### Birth

BAKER.—On June 17th, to the wife of Paul Baker, of St. Austell, Cornwall, a son.

### Marriage

BLACKMORE—TALBOT.—On June 8th, S. D. Blackmore, of Gosport, to Miss Dorothy Talbot.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy is offered to the following:—

EMERTON.—To W. E. Emerton, of Chalton, near Luton, whose brother has died suddenly. His loss is a great grief to our St. Dunstaner, as they spent much time together.

HUMPHREY.—To E. Humphrey, now in training at Ovingdean, whose father died following a tragic accident at his place of work. He was overcome by fumes.

HURRELL.—To A. Hurrell, of Kenley, who has lost his brother, and also to Mrs. Hurrell in the loss of a sister.

JENNINGS.—To D. Jennings, of Worthing, whose father has died.

NICHOLS.—To C. J. Nichols, of Weybridge, Surrey, whose mother has died following a stroke. She was 66.

WINDRIDGE.—To O. Windridge, of Leicester, whose wife died on July 7th after a very painful illness. Mr. and Mrs. Windridge were only married in February of this year.

★ ★ ★

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for the month of August.

### Mr. A. E. Howlett

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Mr. A. E. Howlett, who served St. Dunstan's almost from its foundation in 1915 until December, 1947. As Wireless Engineer in the 1920's and later as Maintenance Engineer and Clerk of Works, he will be remembered by St. Dunstaners of both wars, for he was closely concerned in the setting up of the Training Centre at Church Stretton.

### Mrs. Jones

St. Dunstaners who visited the Blackpool Home will also hear with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Jones, who for twelve years was housekeeper at the Home. We learn from Miss Vaughan Davies that on June 8th Mrs. Jones was on her way to visit friends and, when walking on the pavement, a van and car which had collided skidded and crushed her against a wall. She was taken to Victoria Hospital, where she died on June 16th. Miss Vaughan Davies and Miss Eva Davies (late of the Linen Room) attended the funeral on June 21st.

### Grandfathers

T. Brougham, of Speke, Liverpool; F. Meader, of East Barnet; and new grandchildren for W. V. Clappett, of Luton; R. Robinson, of Cookstown; and Sammy Smith, of Blackpool (twins—a boy and a girl—have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gardiner).

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Should we ask for more?

FROM time to time I am asked if St. Dunstan's officially, or I as an M.P., will persuade some Ministry or local authority to make some special concessions for blinded ex-servicemen and women, or for the blind generally.

Recent examples are a request for a free television licence, a reduced charge for telephones and free rides for a guide dog on local buses.

What principles should guide public authorities in considering such requests, and how far ought we and other societies in the blind world to go in asking for them?

These two questions may be answered by consideration of the same principles, though as regards the second one, it should be remembered that we are advocates and not judges. We may, therefore, legitimately ask for more than we expect to receive, but even so, we should take care not to over-play our hand. Why? Because civilised life depends upon the middle way prevailing, rather than that everybody should press his claims for consideration to the utmost. And secondly, on a lower plane, because it never pays to over-play your hand.

I often have to face this problem and to think out what is the right thing to do, and I thought it might interest St. Dunstaners to read the result of my thoughts, and perhaps to contribute their criticisms.

I think there should be a clear distinction between the handicap of blindness and the handicap of poverty. Sometimes the two go together, but they are not necessarily the same. If a claim or a request, made ostensibly on account of blindness, is really an appeal for help on account of poverty, it ought to be made as such and not confused. Many are poor, besides some of the blind.

For example, take the request for reduced telephone charges. There is some point in the argument that, owing to the particular handicap of blindness, a telephone is a particularly useful way for making communications, because it is much easier to ring up than to write a letter, and because you can get an answer in your ear without having to ask somebody to read it to you. However, many others might put forward similar pleas—the bedridden man, for example, though he can write a letter more easily than the blind man, cannot take it to the pillarbox, which the blind man can do. The man who has already had a coronary thrombosis and fears another, or the old lady whose house has already been burgled and who fears a second attempt, may have more anxiety than the blind man.

Should the cheaper telephone, therefore, be restricted to blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen, or to the blind generally? Or to those who have faulty hearts and old ladies who have been burgled? Or to whom?

The very asking of this question indicates that the answer is difficult to find.



Why should the blind have a free television licence? As they have no vision they should not be interested in television; instead, should not the deaf or bedridden have free television licences? Again, merely asking this question suggests its own answer.

There are at least two notable concessions for the blind which are well known and recognised. One is the free wireless licence and the other is the right to travel on all the railways of Britain on a one fare for two persons basis, subject to certain conditions. If these are justified, why not other concessions also?

I myself advocated a free wireless licence to Parliament, but this was a licence for ordinary "sound" wireless and not for television. I argued that wireless was the blind man's newspaper, his magazine, his source of entertainment in his home and his special friend. He did not enjoy the ancient monuments, the National Trust properties, the flowers in the parks, the national galleries and other beautiful things which the taxpayer pays for, so why not let him have his "sound" broadcasting which, playing to an un-seeing audience every night, might have been designed for him?

I have often been asked about the railway concession. Why is it two fares for one, instead of free fares for the blind? There is a good reason. If a blind person can travel by himself—and some do—then obviously blindness is not stopping him from travelling and he is not at any very severe disadvantage. If, on the other hand, he cannot travel by himself or he needs the company of a guide at the other end, then he is at a disadvantage on account of blindness. It should be noted that this has nothing to do with riches or poverty, but solely with blindness and the two persons for one fare concession is based upon that principle.

It follows from this argument that I do not personally think it would be right to ask the authorities to allow blind persons to travel free, which is a slightly different conception; I do not see any particular reason why they should, nor, as I have said, do I think a television licence should be free to the blind, nor do I think there is a special case for a differential telephone rate for the blind.

On the other hand, the request that a guide dog should be allowed to travel on a bus, even though other dogs are banned, is one I would press upon authority; indeed I did this with success.

I hope these thoughts will not lead any reader to think of me as unsympathetic; on the contrary, it is my deep sympathy and, I hope, my understanding of the problems and needs of blind persons which has made me think about the matter as much as I have. In my judgment, the best way for the nation to compensate for the handicap of blindness is by giving blind people who cannot earn, an adequate income by way of allowances or pensions.

IAN FRASER.

## Dance

There will be a Dance for St. Dunstaners on *Friday, November 15th*, at the Trevelyan Hall, Great Peter Street (off Great Smith Street), Westminster, from 7.30 to 11 p.m.

Single tickets 3s. Double 5s.

Do book the date and come. You will find a good band, a good supper, and good company.

Please apply for tickets to Miss Hoare, Flat 4, 9 The Paragon, Blackheath (Tel. (office hours) Reliance 1084 or Lee Green 7591 during the evening). Or to Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey.

## R.A.O.B.

On September 11th, F. G. Holman, of Thetford, was raised to the Fourth Degree of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

## Well Done, Maurice!

Maurice Aldridge, of Axminster, who is twenty and a trainee at Ovingdean, has passed his General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) with flying colours. He obtained credits in every subject. Now he hopes to go on for the Advanced Level examinations.

## From Miss Naisi Gordon

DEAR ST. DUNSTANERS AND FAMILIES,

Now that I am beginning to feel better, I would like to say goodbye to those of you I did not see, and to thank you all for making me so welcome in your homes.

I shall miss seeing you, but your courage and cheerfulness I shall always remember, and I hope there will be opportunities to meet again.

My love and very best wishes to all for your health and happiness.

Yours sincerely, NAISI GORDON.

## London Club Notes

Very soon now a deck chair in the garden will no longer be a possibility, with "Old Man Winter" just around the corner, and we shall have to find our leisure indoors. The radio, and for some of you the T.V., will provide a good deal of entertainment, but, should you find yourself at a loose end, may I remind those of you who reside in the Greater London area that there is a welcome awaiting you at the London Club, 191 Marylebone Road. Give it a trial. I am certain you will find it worth while.

On behalf of the Club Committee, I would like to extend to Miss Cecil Woods our most grateful thanks for the very generous gift she made to the Club recently; the folks who regularly attend the Thursday night Domino Tournament were especially pleased. Our thanks are also due once again to our very good friend, Mr. Cheeseman, for again inviting a party of St. Dunstaners for an all-day trip by road and river; the weather was not all that could be desired, but I gather from those who made the journey that an excellent time was had by all.

S. H. WEBSTER,  
*Chairman.*

## Bridge

The St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will take place at Ovingdean during the week-end of Saturday, November 16th. Will all bridge players who are interested and wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup competitions—namely, for Pairs and Teams of Four—send in their names to Mr. Bob Willis at the London Club before November 1st, at the same time giving the name of the partner they have arranged to play with. This will enable the Committee to make the draw and ensure the smooth running of the competitions at Brighton. If I should have any single names sent in, I am afraid I cannot guarantee a partner, but I will do my best.

Twenty members of the Club visited the Masters on June 29th. A duplicate match was arranged and the winners of the St. Dunstan's Section were Messrs. C. Bulman and B. Ingre; W. Bishop and G. Jolly.

On September 6th, our London Business Houses team played the first League match

of the season; their opponents were Carreras and they won the match, 28—24 (six Victory Points).

*Stop Press.*—As we go to press we hear that our Bridge team visiting Harrogate were second in the Teams of Four Cup event and went on to win the remaining five matches. (Full report next month.).  
G. P. B.

## Reunions

Since the REVIEW last appeared, we have had our meetings at Ipswich, Nottingham, Birmingham and London. Now only Brighton remains.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, welcomed guests at a very well-attended meeting at Ipswich on July 10th, and Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were at both the Nottingham and the Birmingham Reunions. (At Nottingham, Sheffield men were present for the first time.)

The London Reunion took place as usual at the Windsor Rooms, Coventry Street Corner House. Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present, although they had to leave later for the North. Sir Ian told his audience that there were some one hundred St. Dunstaners there that night—sixty were First War men and forty were men of the Second War, and of the whole number assembled there no fewer than 75 per cent. were working. "I think everyone will agree," he said, "that this is something of which we can be very proud."

## The Chess Week-end

Will those who are interested in the Chess Week-end note that the date has been changed to October 18th-21st.

If there is anyone who would like to take part will he write to Mr. Wills at headquarters if he has not already done so.

## Personal

R. G. Shed, of Burgess Hill, Sussex, has three Labrador-retriever puppies (bitches), now six weeks old, which he is willing to give to fellow St. Dunstaners, provided a good home is assured.

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The address of the Misses Phyllis and Hester Pease is now 120 High Street, Knaresborough, Yorkshire.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

At a meeting of St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Advisory Committee earlier in the year, a suggestion was put forward by Mr. A. G. Fisher, of Glasgow, that some means should be found to commemorate more fully the Founder of St. Dunstan's, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt.

Sir Ian Fraser was invited to attend the next meeting of the Physiotherapy Advisory Committee, when the whole matter was thoroughly discussed. Many suggestions were considered, including the idea of a public memorial but this was felt to be impracticable and finally it was thought that, providing the family of Sir Arthur Pearson were agreeable, West House should be re-named "Pearson House," and a replica of Sir Arthur's portrait, painted by Sir William Orpen, R.A., should be placed in the entrance hall of the re-named building.

It is now learned that Sir Arthur Pearson's family and St. Dunstan's Council have welcomed and expressed their appreciation of the suggestion that the Founder of St. Dunstan's should be honoured in this way.

The proposed Memorial would take the form of a granite panel with the words "Pearson House" engraved in gilt lettering with the St. Dunstan's badge on either side, and would be placed immediately above the main entrance door of West House.

I feel sure that these suggestions will be welcomed by all St. Dunstaners.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) N. McLEOD STEEL,

*Chairman, St. Dunstan's*

*Physiotherapy Advisory Committee.*

DEAR EDITOR,

It was indeed with regret that I read in the June REVIEW of Sir Ian's decision to retire in a year's time from the high office of National President of the British Legion.

That day will be a sad one for all ex-servicemen and women, especially those who are connected in any way with war pensions, for particularly in this field Sir Ian has done more than anyone else to bring about a marked degree of improvement. I hope many will agree with me in expressing their deep appreciation of his continuous hard work.

Yours sincerely,

P. SPENCER.

*Weston-super-Mare.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Having slowly cleaned, filled and lit my pipe I nudged Bert, my sighted deaf friend, who said he was just wondering what were the most useful things the blind man had, and as a result of my suggestion, he gave me a list of the most useful things in *his* opinion. Here they are in order of merit:

1. Watch.
2. Braille (reading and writing).
3. The anti-litter tobacco box.
4. Walking stick.
5. Telephone.
6. Typewriter.

My own list is as follows:—

1. Braille.
2. Watch.
3. Rule (the blind man's steel folding 2ft. rule).
4. Typewriter.
5. Anti-litter box.
6. Walking stick.

Now, St. Dunstaner, what do *you* vote for?

Yours sincerely,

G. FALLOWFIELD,

*Southwick.*

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to "Hobbies—Why not a Budgie?" in the July REVIEW. I was surprised and shocked to read that the blind were being advised to keep cage birds. Surely any blind individual knows only too well what it is like to live in a cage, and should be the very last person to wish to inflict a like torment upon any living creature, even though the cage be a "super" one.

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS FLOYD.

*Teignmouth.*

DEAR EDITOR,

It may be of interest to some of the St. Dunstaners who came to the camp at H.M.S. Daedalus, at Lee-on-Solent, in August to know that the Austin Seven, year '34, arrived back in Hertfordshire without a breakdown, having done 260 miles in all. Even the running boards were intact and she is hoping to be the chief means of transport at the next camp.

Although some were in "too great a hurry" to take a lift, others found her a safe, swift, sure shelter from storms, sea spray and showers, and a certain way of getting to the Vic. and other destinations in time.

Yours, etc.,

B. E. TALBOT.

DEAR EDITOR,

Could you spare a little space for a little announcement of interest to those who were in camp at Westbury?

Quite a number had their photograph taken with skittle pins as foreground in the alley of the Rose and Crown at Hinton Charterhouse. Our lads played against the British Legion. The press came along and took photographs. Quite a number of the boys tried to find out what local paper had them, but no one seemed to know. After putting my plastic private action on the case, I, the great detective, traced the press photographer. He was from the *Bath-Wilts. Chronicle-Herald*, and I have obtained a dozen copies and sent them to several of the lads whose addresses I had. They are excellent glossy photographs, 10in. by 8in., and can be obtained from the *Chronicle* at 33 Westgate Street, Bath, price 2s. 9d. When ordering, please quote Neg. No. 345-1.

Yours sincerely,  
E. H. NORTH ("Gen.")  
*Taunton.*

### The Lee-on-Solent Camp, 1957

It is with a growing sense of wonder that each successive year is better to me and, indeed, all who enjoy the hospitality of the Royal Naval Air Station, Lee-on-Solent. Once again our thanks are extended to the Commander and his staff for a most enjoyable week. Our friends, the Field Gun Crew, escorted us with the same efficiency they displayed at Earl's Court and subscribed in a big way to the pleasure of the occasion.

There were two innovations this year which turned out well. Firstly, the entire camp was contained aboard H.M.S. *Daedalus*, except for the usual visits ashore, the cruises to Ryde (Isle of Wight), a memorable dance given by the Civilian Staff, and the usual British Legion party. Secondly, our trips on the Solent were made in a Fleet Auxiliary of some 250 tons. A friend who was with us for the first time said "This is just like a luxury cruise!" He was lying stretched out on a deck-hatch at the time.

On one occasion in particular the unobtrusive efficiency of the Navy in an emergency was demonstrated. We had just tied up at Ryde when it was discovered that all the bag lunches had been left behind. An almighty flap was about to start when the missing fodder arrived. The Navy had

taken the situation in hand and followed us up in a fast M.F.V., which hove-to alongside at just the right moment.

The Camp never passes without its little spice of drama—ably supplied when George Eustace missed his footing and had an involuntary soaking.

Many of us have heard of the "Flying Scotsman," but few would think it was a St. Dunstaner. Jock Boyd made history as the first crane-born St. Dunstaner when he was hoisted aboard the cruise-ship by means of a mobile crane.

Names and incidents are too numerous for the available space, but there is a feeling of warm gratitude to the R.N.A.S., Lee-on-Solent, as we look forward to 1958.

STEWART SPENCE.

### Postscript

*From the "Evening News," Portsmouth:*

"Crane driver Mr. Albert Gregory heaved a sigh of relief as he switched off the motor of his crane for he had just moved the strangest and most important freight of his career—a blind and crippled World War I veteran, sitting in a swaying wheel-chair. The man in the wheel-chair was 61 year old Mr. Jock Boyd, and his crane journey took place as H.M.S. *Hornet*, where he was lifted from the deck of a torpedo return vessel on to the quayside. . . .

'I've lifted practically everything during my time,' said Mr. Gregory, 'but it's the first time I've lifted a man in a wheel chair. It was quite a responsibility—especially as it was a gravity drop—worked with just a foot-brake.'

If Mr. Gregory was a bit nervous, Mr. Boyd certainly was not. 'Wonderful experience,' he said. 'I've been to Lee every year since 1946 and I've been in plenty of boats, but it's the first time I've gone aboard by crane.'

### Advertisement

Are you interested in Choral singing?—if so, join the Pro Canto Singers, rehearsals every Monday at 6.30 p.m. in the Armitage Hall, Royal National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, W.1. No audition. Works in course of preparation: St. Nicolas (Benjamin Britten) and Gloria (Vivaldi). Rehearsals recommence on September 16th. Please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Miss Kathleen Cheselden, 83 Westbourne Terrace, London, W.2—Paddington 6435—or Mrs. Wilkinson, Asst. Hon. Secretary, at the Music Department, R.N.I.B.



## Westbury Camp

And a jolly good time was had by one and all. That was the opinion of all the campers at Westbury Camp, which took place from July 2nd to 12th. As usual, Miss Oliphant supervised affairs with her usual efficient manner, aided and abetted by those stalwarts who come year after year to make this camp such an enjoyable one. How greatly we appreciate them. We are now firm friends and after many years' co-operation we have reached the banter stage which is the acme of true friendship.

We were very pleased to meet the Rev. and Mrs. Spurway at Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glasgow's house at Hinton Charterhouse, where we had our usual annual tea party and get-together. The evening before we were the guests of the British Legion in the same village, where we adjourned to the Rose and Crown for skittles and refreshments. Other highlights were Salisbury Races, socials given by the Women's Section of the British Legion, the I.T.C. and Toc H. A trip to Bath, some for the theatre and others just to scrounge around. The latter, I regret to say, whiled away the time by throwing dice, within six feet of the highway. Freddie and I kept our plastics on the alert for any "rozzer" lurking in the vicinity. What a lot of sharpers our lady escorts proved to be.

Again all the good Wiltshire folks came to the fore with their cars to take us just where we wished to go. Amongst the drivers to take us to Southampton, where we made a tour of the docks and saw the *Queen Elizabeth* go out was a Group Captain, an Admiral and a General. Freddie Wareham and I were driven by the General, who proved himself a real "knut." Just fancy, you P.B.I., buck privates, entering the car and saying to the General "Home, James, and don't spare the horse power." Yorky, the Wiltshire Yorkshireman from Chippenham, proved an excellent race reader and putter-on-er, and three husky young twenty-one-year-olds in the persons of Barry, John and Robert proved three gallant helpers who we should like to have with us every year. Barry brought along his tape recorder and there was an interesting race recorded by them. It was the Westbury Hurdles and all the lady helpers were the so-called mounts—Sticky Stockfield, Ardent Arning, Lucy Lockett, etc. The race was won by Broody Moody with F. Wareham up.

Oliphant's Choice, carrying 20 lb. overweight, with Bert Dergess up, fell at the first fence. The recording was most realistic and when Raymond Glendenning retires I would respectfully ask the B.B.C. to give any of these huskies an audition. In conclusion, I would like Ernie Strand to be assured that it was not I who pinched his pint. Better ask Clem.

Here's to the next time.

"GEN."

## Manchester Club

On Sunday, July 21st, the Club had an outing to New Brighton. After all arrangements had been made we learned about the 'bus strike, and we feared that the outing might prove a failure. It was very fortunate that we had arranged to travel by rail, but one or two members were unable to get the train owing to absence of 'bus connections.

We also selected a very fine day out of a run of showery ones, and this helped to make the outing one of the best ever arranged.

The party took lunch and tea at the Café Royal, both meals being excellently served and well enjoyed. "Go-as-you-please" was the order of the day, so long as we all met at the Pier for the return trip, and this worked admirably. A jolly good outing for all.

J. SHAW.

## Her Majesty and a St. Dunstaner

On Saturday, August 3rd, the Queen, with Prince Philip, visited the Jubilee Jamboree of Boy Scouts in Sutton Park. and prior to entering the Park, Her Majesty visited the Town Hall where the Mayor and Mayoress, Aldermen and Councillors, with their wives and over two hundred representatives of the town were assembled. A St. Dunstaner, Councillor C. F. Beaumont-Edmonds, whose four-year-old daughter had presented the Queen with a bouquet, was presented to Her Majesty, who told him that Felicia had performed her task beautifully. She also asked how long our St. Dunstaner had been on the Council.

On August 1st, when H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, opened the Jamboree, he was presented to him as Secretary to the Local Association of Boy Scouts. Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont-Edmonds also met the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan.

## Talking Book Library

### Holiday Headings

Thirteen books came to fruition during the lay off. What little I recall of them is here below at your service.

"H.M.S. Ulysses," by A. MacLean, reader Andrew Timothy, is a too-strong account of a most disastrous Russian convoy during the war. The truly terrible gallantry of this ship and its crew against impossible odds can only be enjoyed by those with good nerves and strong stomachs. Excellent of its kind, but you have been warned. *Cat. No. 549.*

"Love in the Sun," by Leo Walmsley, reader Alvar Lidell, is a most pleasant Cornish idyll lived and enjoyed by a happy couple, refugees from Yorkshire. Soothing reading. *Cat. No. 977.*

"The Golden Waterwheel," by Leo Walmsley, reader Andrew Timothy, is the story, charmingly told, of the struggles of building a home and initiating happy family life on a bleak Yorkshire moor near the coast. One good neighbour and one bad together with an excellent fishing village contribute to minor excitements. This is a sequel to "Love in the Sun," and just as pleasant to read. *Cat. No. 359.*

"His Last Bow," by A. Conan Doyle, reader Andrew Timothy, consists of more of the exciting doings of the evergreen Sherlock Holmes. *Cat. No. 242.*

"Major Thompson Lives in France," by P. Daninos, reader Franklin Engelmann, is an amusing study of a French-thinking Englishman, but since the author's name is Pierre, it is really the work of an English-thinking Frenchman. Fun maybe, but I'm too insular to take such teasing. Probably you will enjoy it. *Cat. No. 471.*

"Quite Early One Morning," by Dylan Thomas, reader Anthony Oliver, is a collection of radio scripts delivered by the author. In the main there is a freshness and pungency here, and when occasionally a too-wordiness creeps in, rollicking humour comes to the rescue. *Cat. No. 339.*

"The Reason Why," by Cecil Woodham Smith, reader Alvar Lidell, reduces the legendary heroes of Balaclava to less than their actual stature. The lack of efficiency of the fighting command during the Crimean War serves only to accentuate the matchless quality of the men engaged. Of course the leaders had to be guilty of uninspired

lunacy as well as the inspired variety. I found it enthralling. *Cat. No. 27.*

"Ten Years under the Earth," by N. Casteret, reader John Webster, has underground exploration as its theme. Many disbelieve the discoveries claimed by such exploration but, be that as it may, none can deny the peculiar form of courage needed to indulge this form of curiosity. Quite fascinating. *Cat. No. 32.*

"The Chelsea Rainbow," by Charles Terrot, reader Peter Fettes, is a crime story based on valuable fighting fish of Siamese origin. A copper's daughter and a "ticket of leave" man provide the love interest and it all adds up to entertaining reading. *Cat. No. 550.*

"Gun for Sale," by Graham Greene, reader Lionel Gamlin, is the hunting of a hired assassin who has, at first, no idea of the identity of his employer. The fiancée of the policeman on the case becomes embroiled with the hunted man to add piquancy to the hunt. This is a thriller. *Cat. No. 974.*

"The Herb of Grace," by E. Goudge, reader Arthur Bush, is one of the most feeling novels I've ever read and so is difficult to summarise. The title is an old country inn taken over by the Elliott family where they settle down and adjust themselves to post-war living. There are too many cross threads to enumerate but the whole is a most touching story. *Cat. No. 976.*

"Return Journey," by Barbara Goolden, reader Franklin Engelmann (*Cat. No. 265*), and "A Victorian Boyhood," by L. E. Jones, reader Robin Holmes (*Cat. No. 254*) were also released.

"NELSON."

### Grandfathers

D. Owen, of Colwyn Bay; E. J. Lloyd, of Cardiff; T. Floyd, of Teignmouth; W. Burden, of Saltdean; H. Taylor, of Winton, Bournemouth (his daughter in California has had a daughter); P. Summers, of Hamilton (Mrs. Dodds has had twin daughters); H. Selby, of Patcham; and new grand-children for H. Randall, of Hove; J. Graves, of Oldham; A. Lincoln, of Liverpool; J. Daly, of Liverpool; P. Sheridan, of Wishaw (for the twenty-ninth time); C. Firth, of Heswall (a boy and a girl, making 14 in all); G. Bower, of Bristol; J. Nash, of Lowestoft; T. S. Cooper, of Bridlington; C. E. Temperton, of Hull.



## Liverpool Club Notes

The Liverpool Club held its Annual Summer Outing on Saturday, August 31st. This year we were bound for Shrewsbury and Llangollen. We got away to an early start and, travelling via the Mersey Tunnel, our coach was soon speeding along merrily through the lovely Cheshire countryside. We by-passed Chester and continued on through the old town of Whitchurch, calling a halt shortly afterwards for our "elevenses" at a wayside café. After this welcome refreshment, we carried on without further stops to Shrewsbury, which we reached in good time for lunch. We enjoyed an excellent meal at Morris's Restaurant, which was well known to our fellow St. Dunstaners who had trained at Church Stretton; then we made our various ways to visit places of interest in the town.

At four o'clock we rejoined our coach and, leaving Shrewsbury, we travelled along the old Holyhead coaching road, through some of the prettiest country in North Wales, on to Llangollen. Here we did justice to a good tea at the ancient "Bull Inn," after which we sauntered around the quaint streets which the modern age has been unable to touch. It was now time to be making tracks for home, and our coach was soon passing Ruabon, then Wrexham, and on to Gresford, where we stopped for liquid refreshments at the "Red Lion" hotel, and enjoyed an hour's entertainment by some local vocalists. We were reluctant to leave such jolly company but the time was pressing and it was essential that we should get on our way. This time passing through Chester, we eventually reached Liverpool in good time for all to catch connections to our various destinations. It was agreed by all that it had been a wonderful day.

*Please note.*—The next meeting of the Liverpool Club will be on Saturday, September 28th, as usual, at the British Legion, Leece Street, at 3 p.m. St. Dunstaners wishing to become members will be most welcome.

T. MILNER,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

D. B. Elrod, of Norton, Sheffield, with his guide dog, Dianna, was invited to take tea with the Countess Ross and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Doncaster at a garden party on July 11th.

## Double Meanings

Spin a yarn.  
Kick the bucket.  
Press your suit.  
Spill the beans.  
Snap your fingers.  
Drop a brick.  
Cut a caper.

BARBARA BELL,  
*Ben Rhydding.*

My fishmonger says that when he got tired of smoking his pipe he smoked some haddocks.

The secretary filed all the day's letters, then she filed her nails.

The oarsman had to leave off stroking his cat as it was time to go on the river and stroke his crew.

When the racehorse owner heard the criticism of the course stewards he felt irritated, so he scratched his horse.

All the aeroplane passengers were securely shut in, but the quarrelsome couple fell out.

Horse and jockey took all the fences—but still there was none missing.

T. FLOYD,  
*Teignmouth.*

You left the tap running all night.

Gosh! I must fly.

She lowered her eyes in anticipation.

You must get a grip on yourself.

Can you please hurry and serve me with a mouse trap, I have to catch a bus.

Please call me early.

This book is killing me.

So you're just going off, are you?

She has absolutely no taste.

This cheese is very strong.

I have to sit on a Jury to-morrow.

I won't be long running up these curtains.

A. G. BRADLEY,  
*Northwood Hills.*

He was floored by a foul.

Even the clocks are striking.

They didn't half go coming back.

She wears the trousers.

The record was broken.

Strings were pulled for his election.

Palms were waved as the waiters sped the departing guests.

The rake was dancing with a peach.

His fiddling took him to court.

T. ROGERS,  
*Huddersfield.*

Spilling the beans.  
 Catching a crab.  
 I've a bone to pick with you.  
 Pulling your leg.  
 Taking the bull by the horns.  
 A close shave.  
 Toeing the line.  
 Drawing a red herring.  
 The writing on the wall.  
 Wool gathering.

E. A. ALEXANDER.

Poole.

### From All Quarters

T. C. McKay, of Brighton, who exhibited a small chiming grandmother clock at the International Handicrafts and Do-it-yourself Exhibition at Earl's Court, London, which was highly praised in the London *Evening News* was awarded a Silver Plaque. Tom has lost a leg and some of his fingers.

From the "Gallipoli Legion Gazette" we learn that our Australian St. Dunstaner, Tom Murphy, of Sydney, shares with his six sons twenty-seven medals. He himself was blinded at Gallipoli, in 1915. All six sons went to the 1939-45 war and came back safely, bringing with them twenty-three medals. This must surely be a record.

At Bournemouth Musical Festival, E. A. Alexander, of Parkstone, Poole, obtained the highest marks in the Baritone Class for which he received first-class honours. Mr. Alexander pays warm tribute to Mr. Pat Redman, music teacher at Brighton, who, he says, helped him so much.

E. L. Woods, of Malmesbury, was presented to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and had five minutes' conversation with her when she attended the County Rally of the Wiltshire British Legion during May.

Horace Elsey, of Beccles, Suffolk, was an invited guest at the Mayoral Opening of a Garden for the Blind at Yarmouth, on July 30th. Our St. Dunstaner had made suggestions some two years ago on the layout of such a garden.

H. Watford, of Cudham, Kent, took first prize for his greenhouse tomatoes at a local show at the end of August.

T. Evans, of Flint, was interviewed by Franklin Engelman in the B.B.C. programme, "Down Your Way," on July 28th.

J. Perfect, of Roker, Sunderland, has been made Sergeant-at-Arms at his local Round Table, and was Toast Master at a recent big function.

### As we go to press—

W. H. Collins, of Blackpool, tells us that £2 4s. 2d. was collected for the P.D.S.A. in his collecting box while he was at Ovingdean and he thanks all who contributed.

H. Greatrex, of Peacehaven, has been chosen to be one of the County representatives to attend the Triennial Conference of the National Association of Parish Councils, to be held in London. He has also had an invitation to attend a reception to be given by the Corporation of London at Guildhall.

### Golden Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. P. Lynch, of Brandon, Co. Durham, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on July 13th. They spent a happy day with their seven children and twenty-one grandchildren, and during the day returned to the Church where they were married fifty years ago.

Warm congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Whitehouse, of Thornaby-on-Tees, Yorkshire, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on August 19th.

### Married Forty-nine Years

On July 27th, Mr. and Mrs. H. Potter, of Hastings, celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary—and it was Mrs. Potter's 70th birthday. Double congratulations.

### Ruby Weddings

Celebrating forty years of married life are: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hicks, of Palmers Green (June 16th); Mr. and Mrs. W. Girling, of Bournemouth (July 24th), Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Heeley, of Leeds (August 1st); Mr. and Mrs. W. Roberts, Southend-on-Sea (August 19th); Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Stamp, Keelby, Grimsby (August 22nd); Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Jackson, of Southwick (August 26th); Mr. and Mrs. J. Hughes, of Birkenhead (September 8th); and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Temperton (September 15th).

Many congratulations to them all.

### Silver Weddings

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Horton, of Barnsley, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on August 22nd; to Mr. and Mrs. C. Hancock, of West Drayton, September 10th; and to Mr. and Mrs. H. Arney, of Pinner, August 6th, but not celebrated until September 5th as our St. Dunstaner was in hospital at the time.



## Family News

Alan Leigh, Warrington, has qualified to enter Liverpool University in October. He has been elected "Sportsman of the Year" of Warrington Grammar School and will be presented with a cup at the Speech Day in November.

William Miller, Leamington Spa, has won a scholarship to Warwick School, which is an independent Public School and one of the oldest in England—it was founded in 914 A.D. The number of scholarships awarded are very few. William is eleven.

Leslie Vowles, Portsmouth, was placed first in the All England Sunshine Dancing Competition for a solo song and dance, for which she received a gold medal, and third in All England for tap dancing, which brought her a bronze medal.

Mary Marshall, Peterloo, Co. Durham, has passed her examination and is now a State Registered Nurse.

Jacqueline Scrimgour, Middlesbrough, has passed her Preliminary Examination for Mental Nursing.

Thelma Beard, Sunbury-on-Thames, and Julie Holland, Newton Abbott, have both passed in six out of seven subjects for their General Certificate of Education examination.

John H. Richardson's degree was given in the last REVIEW as in Theology. This should have been Psychology.

Tony Martin, Soberton, is now a Corporal in the 1st Bn. Paratroop Regiment. The Athletic Team, of which he is a member, won the Inter-Unit, the Southern Command and finally the Army Team Championship.

Denis Hicks, Palmers Green, has passed his final examination and is now a fully qualified Chartered Accountant.

Christine Carney, Dunstable, has passed her examination to become a member of the Junior Red Cross.

Rosemary Green, Fareham, received the cup for her school which her School Choir won, beating eleven choirs to do so.

Josephine Cooney, Worthing, has won a certificate of distinction in elocution.

Andree Edmunds, Portsmouth, has passed the Initial Examination of the Trinity College of Music with Merit. This reflects great credit on her as she was ill for several weeks before the examination.

Lucinda Rutledge, Belfast, has passed her Senior Certificate Examination at Princess Gardens School with high marks in all subjects.

Brian Higgs, Southfields, has passed his second year's apprenticeship examinations. He is in the engineering industry.

Sylvia Hancock, West Drayton, has passed examinations for first and second grade tap dancing and first and second grade ballet.

Fifteen year old Jeannette Miller, Glasgow, has again won the School Shield for Sports and represented Glasgow recently.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Veronica Popple, Llandebie, on September 7th, to William Allan, M.Sc.

Winifred Southgate, Chelsea, on August 31st, to John Shalders.

Kenneth Horner, Holmfirth, near Huddersfield, on June 8th, to Kathleen Hallas.

Joan Wallis, Whitchurch Hill, Pangbourne, on March 23rd.

David Brooks, Bedford, on July 20th.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Owen, of Rhos-on-Sea, recently to Marguerite Jordin.

Norman Eighteen, Reading, recently, to Veronica Kibbey.

On February 16th, the daughter of A. W. Pimm, of Wickford.

## Judo Exponent

Gilbert Stanley, of Market Harborough, had very distinguished mention in the *Leicester Mercury* recently, with photograph. Gilbert is an active member of Welland Valley Judo Club—he thinks judo is a fine sport. He is already a very good swimmer.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstan's has sent to the Rev. P. O'Brien a cheque towards the Roman Catholic Church Rebuilding Fund in Rottینگdean.

Roman Catholic St. Dunstaners attend this Church when staying at Ovingdean and St. Dunstan's has been glad to make this gift in recognition of the kindly help and facilities always made available to them.

The St. Dunstaners themselves, following a letter in the REVIEW from Tim Gaiger, made their own contribution earlier this year when a cheque was sent to Father O'Brien towards the cost of the furnishings.

The new Church was opened in May.

### Births

DAVIS.—To the wife of H. J. Davis, of Stratford-on-Avon, on August 8th, a son—Martin Richard.

FISHER.—To the wife of C. Fisher, of Ower, near Romsey, on August 3rd, a daughter.

KHABBAZI.—To the wife of S. Khabbazi, of New Malden, on July 17th, a son—Jamal.

LOSKA.—To the wife of J. Loska, of Brighton, on August 21st, a son—Adrian Webling.

RELF.—To the wife of A. Relf, of Tunbridge Wells, on July 26th, a daughter—Brenda Joyce.

WILSON.—To the wife of R. G. (Tug) Wilson, of Somerton, Somerset, on July 30th, a daughter—Mary.

WOOD.—To the wife of W. C. Wood, of Southsea, on August 5th, a son—William Gordon.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

ALEXANDER.—To W. D. Alexander, of Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire, whose wife died suddenly at their home on September 3rd.

ANDROLIA.—To L. Androlia, of Birmingham, whose father died suddenly in July.

BENTLEY.—To J. Bentley, of North Finchley, in the sudden loss of his youngest son.

GWYN.—To A. I. Gwyn, of Pakefield, Lowestoft, whose sister died in February. She was one of his three sisters living together, another one of whom is also very ill. He has had a further loss in the death in a motor accident of a cousin. He was in Italy on his way to the airport to return to England.

RODEN.—To W. J. Roden, of Chorley, Lancs., whose brother died early in August.

WAIN.—To S. W. Wain, of Derby, in the loss of his wife on August 3rd.

WHITLEY.—To J. C. Whitley, of East Wellow, Hampshire, whose father died on September 4th.

WOOD.—To W. C. Wood, of Southsea, whose father died on August 18th.

We have heard with deep regret that J. McCoy, of Birmingham, who came to St. Dunstan's for training in assembly and inspection work in January, 1950, died on September 3rd. He leaves a wife and family to whom our deep sympathy goes.

Many St. Dunstaners who were at Church Stretton will also hear with regret of the death of Mr. Weston, of Shrewsbury. Mr. Weston was chairman of Phillips' Stores and organised a number of concerts and dances for St. Dunstan's during our time at Church Stretton. His daughter married our St. Dunstaner, J. A. Lee, now of Wakefield.

### National Egg-Laying Test

Report for the period of Four Weeks,  
July 16th to August 12th, 1957

	Score
	Value
1. P. Bagwell ... ..	1169
2. W. Webb ... ..	943
3. P. Holmes ... ..	874
4. John A. Dix ... ..	685
5. W. Alan Smith ... ..	685
Average number of eggs per bird per month,	13.00.
Average number of eggs per bird to date,	160.07.

### "In Memory"

(Continued from page 12)

#### Sergeant William Woodrow, 2nd Suffolk Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Woodrow, of Alderbury, near Salisbury, at the age of seventy-four.

He joined the Army at an early age and served throughout the South African campaign. He landed in France with the Old Contemptibles and, after losing his sight, came to St. Dunstan's in 1916. He had been a poultry farmer before and he continued with this, although for a period he kept the Star Inn at Knighton, Isle of Wight. He gave up his farm in 1937, but with the coming of the war turned to camouflage netting.

He lost his wife in 1954 and our deep sympathy is extended to his sons and daughters. (One boy lost his life in France in 1944 and two other sons are still serving with R.E.M.E.)

#### A. J. Norman, Australian Forces

We have heard with deep regret from Mrs. Norman that her husband, A. J. Norman, of Mullumbimby, New South Wales, Australia, died at his home on April 14th, after a long illness.

Mr. Norman did not come to St. Dunstan's and his name has only been added to our list of St. Dunstaners during the last year.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Norman and her two little sons.



## “ In Memory ”

**Private Edward Ernest Bryer, 7th Devons**

With deep regret we record the death of E. E. Bryer, of Yate, Bristol. He was fifty-nine.

He came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1919, and trained as a mat-maker, and he continued with this work right up to last year, when his health began to fail. He was admitted to hospital on August 6th but he died there a week later.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

**Private Alfred John Burtenshaw, Royal Field Artillery (transferred Labour Corps)**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. J. Burtenshaw, of Portslade, at the age of seventy-three.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1919, he trained as a boot-maker and mat-maker, and continued with this for many years; later he also did baskets. He gave up his boot shop in 1951. At the end of 1952 he lost his first wife and two years later went first to Ovingdean and later to West House. On April 11th of this year he married again, and our deep sympathy goes to Mrs. Burtenshaw and the two children of his first marriage.

**Private (Driver) Samuel Cole, Royal Engineers**

With deep regret we record the death of S. Cole, of Swansea. He had only a fortnight earlier celebrated his 80th birthday.

He had enlisted in August, 1915, and was discharged from the Army in March, 1916, having suffered in the Germans' first gas attack. It was not, however, until 1930 that he came to us, when he trained as a mat-maker and netter. Poultry was also an added interest to him. In spite of his age and failing health, he was working on mats to within a year of his death. He was one of the first members of Swansea British Legion.

He leaves a widow and two grown-up daughters from his first marriage to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

**Rifleman Maurice Percy Funnell, King's Royal Rifle Corps**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of M. P. Funnell, of Folkestone. He died within nine days of his fifty-eighth birthday.

Discharged from the Army in 1919, he did not come to St. Dunstan's until 1950. He then trained as a basket-maker. His health had been deteriorating for some time and he was admitted to hospital in May and discharged two months later, but he died at Ovingdean on August 20th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his mother and sister.

**Private Thomas Alfred Jarman, Hampshire Regiment**

With deep regret we record the death of T. A. Jarman, of Southbourne, Bournemouth. He was nearly sixty-eight.

He came to us in October, 1926, and trained as a mat-maker and boot-repairer. First he did boot-repairing, then mat-making and during the war went over to industry, later returning to his mats again.

To his widow and family our deep sympathy is offered.

**Private Samuel Kemp, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry**

With deep regret we record the death of S. Kemp, of Camborne, Cornwall. He was nearly seventy-five.

Discharged from the Army in 1915, he came to us in 1922. Although he trained in mat-making he did not continue this when he left us but had a country life holding. He had been in failing health for some time, then was taken suddenly ill. He was admitted to hospital on July 16th, where he died four days later.

He was married twice and to his widow and grown-up family and to the eight children of his second marriage our deep sympathy is sent.

**Private David Melling, 8th Lancashire Fusiliers**

With deep regret we record the death of D. Melling, of Coggeshall, near Colchester. He was sixty-one.

He came to us in February, 1915, and trained as a poultry farmer and he worked until the time of his death. He had, however, been in bad health for a considerable time. He was admitted to hospital on August 18th, but died there on August 29th, after great suffering patiently borne.

To his widow and step-daughters our deep sympathy is extended.

**Private William Shute, Royal Army Ordnance Corps**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Shute, of Horley, Surrey. He was nearly seventy.

Discharged from the Army in March, 1919, he came to us the following year and he became a joiner. After some years he gave this up to do only a little picture framing.

He had been in failing health for some time and he was admitted to hospital on July 12th and died there on August 16th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy goes.

**Rifleman Edward Albert Steel, King's Royal Rifle Corps**

With deep regret we record the death of E. A. Steel, of East Croydon. He was seventy-six.

He trained as a masseur when he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1918, but later had a shop. His health, however, had deteriorated during the past few years. He went to West House, where he died on July 18th. He was buried at Addington Church on July 22nd.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom we send deep sympathy.

(Continued at foot of previous page)

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 452—VOLUME XLI

OCTOBER, 1957

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**M**OST of us tend to get into a bit of a groove. By this I mean that we stick to the things that are familiar, whether it be on the radio or our choice of a daily newspaper or of friends and acquaintances, and so on.

What I have said is true of all men and women, more particularly as we get older, and I think it is especially true of the blind. It is more difficult to do new things, to move from one place to another if you are blind, and there is, accordingly, a tendency to follow the old line. Even the physical difficulty of moving about may tend to keep one in one's chair for too many hours of the day.

I don't think this is a good thing and I try very hard myself to be always interested in every new thing I hear about or experience I can gain.

Amongst my St. Dunstan's friends, I have noticed two facts which have interested me and made me curious. They are that a considerable number of St. Dunstaners do not go to our Reunions and that many do not go to Ovingdean or West House.

Let us take these two facts separately. I go to a number of Reunions in different parts of the country and observe what goes on there and meet my friends. Undoubtedly a great many St. Dunstaners enjoy an annual occasion to meet members of the staff of St. Dunstan's with whom they have been dealing over various matters and to meet again old friends whom they knew at St. Dunstan's in former years. Some are, I know, prevented from coming by their employment or their businesses, others by their old age or casual sickness, and there may even be some who really dislike that kind of gathering. But I fancy there are others who do not go because they have got into a groove and find it rather an effort to move away from home.

If there are any such I urge them most strongly to try to overcome this inhibition and make the journey next time, even if it is only for the experience to see if it is a good thing.

Now let me deal with the second fact, namely, that many do not go to Ovingdean or West House. Ovingdean is available for a St. Dunstaner to spend a fortnight's holiday a year, and we do our best to fit him in at the time he chooses, though of course all cannot always get the dates they prefer. During the summer months, from May to September, the house is very full, but in the winter months there are often spare beds and many St. Dunstaners go for a second period of change or holiday in the year. The climate at Brighton is often very delightful in the spring and the autumn, and even in the winter, and at all times there is an abundance of fun and games, entertainments and outings, and a warm welcome.

I think the old reason about the groove applies in this instance also, and in addition to it there may be the difficulty of leaving the wife at home or of travelling alone. But a change is good for everybody and travelling difficulties can be overcome—difficulties are indeed made to be overcome. I genuinely believe that a St. Dunstaner who has not made



the effort to leave home for some years will benefit very much indeed by a visit to Ovingdean.

Only a few days ago I met one St. Dunstaner who had never been to Ovingdean because he felt it would be strange and unfamiliar, and that he would feel lost there. Now he tells me that he felt at home at once and enjoyed himself greatly and will go again next year.

The situation at West House is slightly different, for the beds there are mainly given up to men who are wholly or nearly bedridden, others are in bad health or are old and lonely, and only a few beds are available from time to time for holiday-makers. Indeed the limitation of beds is such that holidays at West House can only be made available to men of over 70 years of age. West House, however, is nearly always full and I am not, therefore, urging St. Dunstaners to apply to go there, because unless their circumstances were of a very special nature, they would be disappointed by finding there was no room for them.

This line of thought leads to a further word about getting out of your chair and your home in your own town or village. A little walk by yourself down to the village pub or the British Legion Club, or to see a neighbour and pass the time of day with him, would be a very pleasant routine once established. Those who have given up walking alone may find it a little bit of an effort to start again, but I am quite sure it is well worth while, and if you bump yourself on the garden gate or trip up over the kerbstone, I can assure you from experience that you will only do it once.

IAN FRASER.

## Call for Higher War Pensions

### Deputation to Downing Street

A deputation representing twenty-two ex-service organisations was received by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, on Monday, October 21st, in pursuance of a resolution, passed unanimously at a British Legion mass meeting at the Albert Hall the previous day, calling for increases in war pensions. The deputation consisted of Sir Ian Fraser, President; Major J. T. Spinks, Chairman of the British Legion; Mr. Howell Griffiths, Chairman of the War Pensions Committee; Major R. Hargreaves, Vice-Chairman; Dame Regina Evans, Chairman of the Women's Section; Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby, Chairman of the Royal Air Forces Association; and Brigadier General J. H. G. Wills, of the Royal Marines Association.

More than one hundred Members of Parliament, and some four thousand ex-servicemen and women were among the vast audience at the Albert Hall which heard Sir Ian Fraser announce the forthcoming meeting.

Sir Ian said he would tell the Prime Minister that this was perhaps the last opportunity that this Government had, or any Government had in Britain, of making a settlement with the abundance of goodwill between Government and ex-service men that now existed.

"Our rulers should not lose sight of the fact that our calculations would put our

claim at 110s. 4d., but we are willing to settle for 90s., and we feel, if we are generously met in this matter, that the country has at last discharged this long-standing debt," Sir Ian declared, to a great ovation from his listeners.

The resolution, which was moved by Sir Ian Fraser, expressed the deep concern of the meeting at the continuing fall in the value of pensions granted to those disabled in the service of the Crown, and to the dependents of the fallen, and called on the Government to take immediate steps to grant a further and more substantial increase in the basic rate of such pensions; asked the Prime Minister to receive a deputation from the meeting, and directed that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Pensions, other Ministers, and to Members of Parliament.

Sir Ian paid tribute to the present Minister, Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, and to his predecessors for their efforts to see that the pensioners got what they were entitled to. Sir Ian said that there were three reasons why it should be easy for the Treasury to revise war pensions. A promise, or an implied promise, was made and kept for 24 years; the number of persons concerned was known and strictly limited; and they were dying at the rate of 18,000 a year.

Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby, seconding, said that the continuing process of inflation was already making the figure of 90s. too small instead of too large, and if there was any delay "we shall undoubtedly have to raise our sights still further."

## London Club Notes

### Bridge

From September 7th to 14th, nine members of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club made the trip to Harrogate for this, our seventeenth visit, and with us came Mr. Willis ("Bob"), who once again was a very great help and a friend.

On Saturday evening we went to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Green for a Bridge Drive, and we spent a very pleasant evening. On Sunday evening we competed, with two St. Dunstan's teams in the field, for the St. Dunstan's Trophy for Harrogate teams of four. Our best team consisted of Messrs. Winter, Thompson, Nuyens and Gover, who finished second. On Monday afternoon we were entertained by Mrs. Nokes and Mrs. Habish and their many lady friends, while in the evening we played in a Duplicate competition at Campbell's Club. St. Dunstan's best pair, North-South, were Messrs. Winter and Thompson, who finished third, while in the East-West section, Messrs. Nuyens and Gover were top. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we played another four matches with local clubs and won every one of them. Over all the years this is the finest record to date and I am proud to be a member of such a team.

On the Friday evening, as usual, we held our St. Dunstan's "At Home" at the Dirlton Hotel. Most of our friends whom we had met and been entertained by during the week came along for a Bridge Drive and it was a good social gathering. All the prizes were articles made by St. Dunstan's men and were much appreciated by the winners.

I must, in closing, say how much we appreciate the work done for us by Mr. Frank Nokes in arranging our programme before the event.

H. G.

### St. Dunstan's Two Mile Walk

Parliament Hill, Saturday, 28th September, 1957

Position in Handicap		Actual Time	Allow.	H'cp. Time
1	C. Stafford ...	20-06	4-00	16-06
2	S. Tutton ...	20-46	3-45	17-01
3	G. Hewitt ...	18-34	1-30	17-04
4	L. Dennis ...	18-45	1-20	17-25
5	C. Williamson ...	18-50	1-00	17-50
6	A. Bradley ...	19-31	1-40	17-51
7	W. Miller ...	18-14	Scr.	18-14

### St. Dunstan's Five Mile Handicap Walk and Match with Metropolitan Police

Regent's Park, Saturday, 5th October, 1957

Order of Finish		Act. Time	All.	Hcp. Time in H'p	Pos.
1	G. Checkley	M.P. 41-44			
2	R. Hopper	M.P. 44-48			
3	L. Ward	M.P. 46-14			
4	W. Miller	St.D. 46-29	Scr.	46-29	7
5	J. McCann	M.P. 46-30			
6	G. Hewitt	St.D. 46-46	2-10	44-36	3
7	C. Williamson	St.D. 46-58	2-15	44-43	4
8	L. Dennis	St.D. 47-59	2-20	45-39	6
9	R. Barrett	M.P. 48-32			
10	A. Bradley	St.D. 48-37	4-40	43-57	1
11	T. Gaygan	St.D. 48-39	3-30	45-09	5
12	P. Collins	M.P. 49-59			
13	C. Stafford	St.D. 50-03	5-30	44-33	2
14	C. Shields	M.P. 51-41			
15	S. Spencer	M.P. 51-57			
16	S. Tutton	St.D. 52-30	5-00	47-30	8

### Match Result

Metropolitan Police	1st	61 Points
St. Dunstan's		75 Points

### Dance

You are reminded that there will be a Dance for St. Dunstaners on Friday, November 15th, at the Trevelyan Hall, Great Peter Street (off Great Smith Street), Westminster, from 7.30 to 11 p.m. Single tickets, 3s., double 5s., from Miss Hoare or Mrs. Spurway, or you can pay at the door.

### Adventure on the Broads

John Mahony, of Woodingdean, and Mrs. Mahony, with two friends, spent their holiday on the Norfolk Broads. They started off happily on the Saturday in a launch from Beccles, but on Sunday morning a strong gale blew up which broke their steering cable and sent them on to the rocks. Eventually they were towed into Great Yarmouth and set sail ten hours later. All went well until the Tuesday afternoon when, as they were tying up at Wroxham Broads, another boat bumped them.

Imagine Mrs. Mahony's distress when, going to see if her husband was all right, she found he had gone overboard. However, help was at hand. Two or three people from other boats jumped in fully dressed to help him out and soon he was in dry clothes, little the worse for his experience. The remainder of the holiday was quite good and the weather lovely.

### Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wright, of Verwood, Dorset, whose Ruby Wedding was on October 10th, and to Mr. and Mrs. F. James, of Hove (October 14th).



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

The proposed Memorial to our late Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., is excellent, and I should like to congratulate the Chairman and Committee of St. Dunstan's Physiotherapy Advisory Committee in this connection.

I share Mr. Tom Floyd's sympathy for caged birds, and while those brought up in captivity may not miss their freedom, if I kept birds it would be in an aviary.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR T. BROOKS,  
*Littlehampton.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Once again I would like to say "thank you" to all at Ovingdean and West House for a lovely and interesting Deaf Reunion, which went without a hitch. We went to see where the money came from. I would not like to work there, I would lose all interest in money. Yes, it was very interesting, but not a hope of a free sample. We had a nice talk with Sir Neville and Lady Pearson and tea with the Welfare Staff, then a lovely dinner at the Blackboys Hotel, and I am not forgetting the dinner with Matron and Comm.

I trust our old friend, Joe, and his wife are keeping better now. Sorry he was called away so soon. I was doing fine until the 'flu knocked me out, but thanks to Dr. O'Hara and Sister Guinan and her staff I am once again feeding my hens and digging my garden.

I wish a speedy recovery to all the sick members of the staff at Ovingdean and West House, and hope to see you all about next time.

Thank you all.

Yours sincerely,

BILLY BELL,  
*Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I understand that Mr. Hold, of Yeovil, has received a long service medal for twenty-seven years as a Bandsman with the Salvation Army Band, and that his father played until he was seventy-eight, with sixty-three years' service.

I was most interested to read this, but I can beat it.

I have received a Long Service Medal for forty years and am entitled to another

bar for five years. I have also been a Songster for forty-five years. I was commissioned in 1910.

I am still a Bandsman and Songster, and was Corps Sergeant Major for twenty-two years. This means that I am in charge of the Corps when the Officers are away. I also have to appoint Leaders for open-air morning, afternoon and evening services.

Can any St. Dunstaner beat this?

Also, my father died at the age of eighty-three and he was playing up to the age of eighty-three. My father was the first cornet player in the band at Langford, Bedfordshire, where I used to live until three years ago, when I moved here.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. ROGERS,  
*Woodingdean, Brighton.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I should, through you, like to congratulate Mr. McKay on his success at the International Handicrafts and Do-It-Yourself Exhibition recently at Earl's Court.

It is another shining example of the skill and patience of our craftsmen. And I think more so in the case of McKay's double handicap.

It also reflects the skill of our instructors in imparting their skill and knowledge to their pupils.

I am fond of modelling myself and one of the difficulties in doing this work is to get a *true picture* in my mind of the work in progress. However, that difficulty has been greatly overcome by a gadget sent to me from H.Q.

It is an embossing set. It comprises a baseboard and very thin sheets of plastic and a special ball-pointed pen.

The method of using this set is very simple. A sheet of this plastic is fixed on to the baseboard by two clips. Then the shape of the article is drawn on to the plastic sheet by a sighted friend. The action of the pen actually embosses the shape so that the blind person can easily follow the outline of the article in question.

I, personally, have found this gadget very useful indeed, and I would advise any St. Dunstaner who likes to make things to get in touch with Mr. Christopher, Men's Supplies, who will be only too pleased to send them one.

Yours very sincerely,

T. W. CHAMBERLAIN  
*Earley, Reading.*

DEAR EDITOR

For a period after the Second World War I was privileged to act as Secretary of the War Blinded Ex-Servicemen's Association in Western Australia. Ever since I have been on the mailing list for your excellent paper and I hope I always will be there, because I frequently read bits and pieces which serve to remind me of the great courage shown by blinded ex-servicemen.

For ten years I have been Sporting Supervisor in Western Australia of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, and I thought you might find room in your magazine for what I regard as one of the best stories I have ever broadcast.

It is about an American schoolboy who was often to be seen walking around the playing fields, arm in arm with his father. One day the boy's mother rang the football coach to tell him that her husband had died suddenly, and she asked the coach to convey the news to her boy, believing that it would be better to come from him. The coach told her he regarded it as a pretty tough assignment, but he agreed to tell the lad. Having done this, the boy disappeared for a couple of days and he returned to school on the eve of a very important match. He went to the coach and pleaded to be included in the team. The coach told him he wanted more than ever to give him his chance but that he wasn't good enough, and couldn't be played. The boy persisted to such an extent the coach finally agreed to play him, and he warned him that if he failed he'd pull him out of the team and substitute him with another. The boy played the game of his life and was largely instrumental in winning the game for his team. After the game, the coach put his arm around the boy's shoulders and said to him, "I just can't understand it, you never played anything like that before. What came over you?" And the boy's reply was simply "That was the first time my father had ever seen me play." You see, in the days when the boy walked arm in arm with his father, he had quite naturally wanted his father to believe that he was a fairly good player, but now, and for the first time, he was actually being "seen" by his father, so he had to rise to the occasion, and right well he did so.

My kind regards.

R. HALCOMBE.

c/o Australian Broadcasting Commission,  
Perth, Western Australia.

## "Should we ask for more?"

Sir Ian Fraser's article in last month's REVIEW created a great deal of interest and many letters have reached us on the subject.

Almost without exception, the writers think that the blind should not have further concessions, the solution being adequate pensions.

Some correspondents stressed the importance of having a telephone which, as Stewart Spence, of Hillingdon, says, presents a real mixed blessing to those who find it "a justifiable necessity and at the same time feel the great burden of its expense," but W. Lowings, of Chandlers Ford, thought that in the case of a St. Dunstaner this was taken care of in the comforts allowance.

A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, thought that those who had been rehabilitated into the normal world of industry and commerce should even more strenuously hang on to such independence that paying your way allows, a point of view which came up over and over again in the correspondence.

Malcolm Jordan, of Hove, said that many blind people have a tendency to speak of such concessions with a note of demand instead of request, thus damaging their own cause. To his own knowledge, 'bus conductresses in Cardiff had been instructed to help disabled persons to board and alight from 'buses, but they complained that blind passengers seldom thanked them.

George H. Taylor, of Cricklewood, gave his opinion as follows:—

"Blindness is not the worst handicap by a long way. There are some in our midst who cannot enjoy the privileges that we do—braille reading, talking books, or even the wireless. Tell the scrounging ones that independence is the reward of work, it cannot be given free, and to remove the 'chip' from their shoulder and enjoy life with what is already offered to them."

H. C. Bayer, of Walthamstow, just said "Don't be greedy."

★ ★ ★

J. G. ("Tim") Healy, of Blackpool, whose book, *While Apples Grew*, was published last year, has finished another full-length novel. *While Apples Grew* is published by the Mitre Press (7s. 6d.).



## "Roll It"

[As reported on another page, the well-known film director, Mr. Anthony Asquith, recently visited Ovingdean and for a week the Training Centre became a film studio.]

Came the time of the Moon of the Harvester, and the Leader of the Dark Eyed Ones did send forth a summons, even to the far corners of the land. This summons did call to the Tribal Huts of Ovingdean men of many crafts, those of Slap and Tickle, the Speaker on Wires, the Weavers of Wattle, the Carvers of Woods, even the humble maker of the Bags of String.

These men did gird up their loins, and did hie them to the Stockades, and did wonder of the import of such a mighty gathering.

Then did one Anthony come to them, with his twelve henchmen, and his two Handmaidens, and did labour mightily. With them they did bring many small Suns, the machines of the one unwinking eye, and the box which did faithfully record all the mutterings and sayings of the throng.

Strange cries were heard throughout the houses, cries of "Quiet please," "Okay for sound," "Action," "Cut," and the cry of the henchman with his strips of wood of "Scene 4—take three."

Now the Dark Eyed Ones did many things which were their wont, but now did they not do them many times, even more than many times, and the Dark Eyed Ones did grow weary, even unto exhaustion. For they did enter into the Hall of Feasting but were satisfied not, for it is written that empty utensils fill not a man's belly.

For it was not possible to sit in the halls of rest in peace and parley, for even as a man did commence to tell his friend of this or that, did not Anthony enter, blow upon his reed, and alter all around and crave that the Dark Eyed Ones did halt their tongues.

For these men of the leader, Anthony, did fall upon the unwary, and summon them to their bidding to sit at such a place or walk in such a way, or take the tea goblet in the forenoon, empty, to falsely depict the bazaar hubbub of the fourth hour of the afternoon.

Now the leader of the Stockade, even he in Command, did grow long of countenance, and the leader of the Handmaidens of the Stockades did grow sad of face and her eye lose its twinkle and the lowly handmaidens

did wish that they were but leading the Dark Eyed Ones upon the Undercliff, yea even to the Beer Halls of the nearby villages.

Now the Dark Eyed Ones did become exhausted, and did grow cunning, even to the point of taking themselves to the sleeping chambers, to the corners of the building which normally did know them not, and the Scented Gardens did hold full many, and the Hall of Learning, with its books of little dots, did see many who used it not at other times. Now those of the tribe whose huts were within easy march of the Stockades did keep themselves away, for they did experience great crowds and milling hordes of the Night of Dancing, and did mutter amongst themselves of the strangers within their midst whose presence was at other times not heeded, they were not there.

So five days did pass, with the Little Suns being stood in strange places, and the strange cries echoing within the walls, and the ells of metallic snakes with its energy contained therein, wound around and did make the Dark Eyed Ones stumble near to fall.

Then Anthony the Leader did fold his tents, and gather unto himself his paraphernalia and return to his Rank Organisation, who did him welcome.

All these labours will be laboured upon by many men of the organisation, there will be developing, and cutting and editing, and one day within some moons the whole labourings will be in "The Can," and it will be sent forth to the Halls of Entertainments, yea even the Astorias, the Odeons, the Ritz's, and to the humble pit of fleas.

Then will the world marvel, they will say one to the other such things, "Look he is doing that," "See, he is doing this," "Are they not marvellous," and so the Dark Eyed Ones will steal for a short while that saying, the right of the London Policemen, "I think they are wonderful."

For the labours of five days, and many hours within the Rank Walls will flash before the eyes of the world in twenty minutes.

JOHN MUDGE.

## Personal

A good home is wanted for a pedigree Great Dane bitch. Brindle, aged 3 years. House trained and good with children.—Mrs. Melling, Westbourne, Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Essex.

## The Brighton Reunion

One hundred and twenty St. Dunstaners from all parts of Sussex attended the last Reunion of 1957 at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on October 2nd.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present, and the Mayor of Brighton, Alderman Charles Herbert Tyson, visited the gathering before dinner and greeted the guests. In thanking him, Sir Ian said that successive Mayors of Brighton and Hove had for over forty years placed all the facilities of their Town Halls at St. Dunstan's disposal.

Sir Ian also paid high tribute to the many organisations in Brighton and Hove which helped St. Dunstan's so faithfully. Amongst those present whom he mentioned were Mr. H. Finley and Mr. L. Lutwyche, of the Grocers' Association; Mr. M. Richards, of Southdown Motors; Mr. A. J. Fitzjohn, Toc H; and Mr. and Mrs. Kittle, representing the Pittman Bequest. He also thanked the Chief Constable and through him all the members of the local police force.

Sir Ian said that whereas at the London Reunions or those in busy industrial towns, two-thirds or three-quarters of St. Dunstaners present were still actively at work, more than half of those at the Brighton Reunion had retired. "The pattern of St. Dunstan's in Brighton and Hove reflects the character of these sister towns. It is because they provide such a good climate and atmosphere that so many retired people are there. Brighton has been in a sense our home for 42 years, and a great many St. Dunstaners have come to love Brighton because of their many happy visits to our Convalescent Home."

## Great Grandfathers

W. Raine, of Maldon, Essex; J. Healey, Bradford, Manchester (for the second time).

## Grandfathers

J. Stibbles, of Pitlochry (Dorothy, in Holland, has had a son); W. Timbrell, of Southall; J. Lucocq, of Llandaff; B. Varley, of Marks Tey; C. H. Stock, of Southampton; J. G. Rose, of North Berwick; J. H. Reed, of Grays; G. Power of Bristol (not G. Bower, as announced last month); W. J. Sansom, of Colyton, Devon; A. W. Back, of Shaldon, near Teignmouth.

Patricia, daughter of our late St. Dunstaner, T. Jarman, of Bournemouth, who died on September 9th, gave birth to a daughter on September 17th.

## News from Canada

*Maureen Lees writes:*

Last month I received a telephone call from Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Holmes, of Toronto, Canada, telling me they hoped to visit my workshop and myself the following morning. They arrived in pouring rain, accompanied by Mrs. Holmes' sister (Mrs. Jackson, of Liverpool), who has lost one eye and is now almost blind.

Mrs. Holmes, of course, is the lady who, working at Baker Hall for several years, filled the breach when I wanted an escort for my return trip across the Atlantic.

She mentioned that she often meets the Red Cross girls we all knew at Church Stretton and Ovingdean; very recently she was on a street car and who sat next to her but Mary MacKie, of the Rug Shop. Mary is working now and has a very good job.

Baker Hall now is used for other purposes, but a very modern building to house both male and female blind, and joint training is now in existence. Of course, from my personal knowledge, I consider Canadian blind welfare second to none in the universe.

I heard of old friends of us all attending the Canadian Reunion, some travelling many thousands of miles in order to be present.

The Holmes have only been here for three weeks, as Mr. Holmes has not yet retired (he says he never will); it was his first visit in fifty-three years and he had one fine day in three weeks.

Mrs. Holmes now lives at 4 Hiawatha Road, Toronto, and welcomes anyone from St. Dunstan's visiting Canada.

## To Fishermen of Kent!

Sir Alexander King, Bt., is Chairman of the Deal Angling Club, which earlier this year sent the splendid sum of £371 9s. 9d. to St. Dunstan's as a result of a Fishing Festival.

Sir Alexander knows that there are many blind people interested in sea angling, and he invites all St. Dunstan's fishermen in the County of Kent, or within reasonable distance of Deal, to become honorary members of the Deal Angling Club at 5s. per annum, this small subscription being used to provide rods and tackle, etc.



### From All Quarters

The Vicar of Crowthorne, the Rev. A. C. Nugee, was the preacher at the annual service for the blind at Southwark Cathedral on September 22nd.

★ ★ ★

The Rev. Geoffrey Treglown, M.B.E., was the preacher at the Harvest Festival Service for the Blind, broadcast from Witham Friary Parish Church, Somerset, on the Home Service on September 30th.

★ ★ ★

St. Dunstan's bridge teams last month concluded their seventeenth annual visit to Harrogate where, playing against local Bridge Clubs, they won five out of their six matches and came second in the sixth.

★ ★ ★

J. Abbs, of Stibbard, Fakenham, took a first, second and third prize for flowers at Norwich Blind Gardeners' Show last month, and a second and a third for vegetables. The Cup winner got 33 points, our St. Dunstaner 31.

★ ★ ★

M. C. Jarman, of St. Agnes, Cornwall, was awarded a bronze plaque in the Weaving Section of the British Home Handicrafts Exhibition for his exhibit.

★ ★ ★

T. Oxborough, of Great Yarmouth, appeared in the B.B.C. feature, "Down to the Sea," which was broadcast from the Midland Region on October 15th.

★ ★ ★

C. Durkin, of High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells, has sent us a most interesting report of excavations which have been going on in the High Rocks area. Archaeologists have found evidence that the rocks were inhabited in both the Middle and the Stone Ages, and it is believed that High Rocks was a fortified encampment against Julius Caesar's advancing army.

★ ★ ★

An article on weaving healds, by Maureen Lees, appeared in the September number of "Creative Homecrafts." Maureen would like to hear from any St. Dunstaner who is doing weaving, either as a hobby or full-time. She is collecting information for discussion by a special sub-committee. (Typed letters if possible, please).

### Double Meanings

I lay on the edge of the bed but couldn't drop off.  
By Jove, they raised the roof!  
I got into hot water.  
They left me holding the baby.  
We painted the town red.  
I was glad to eat humble pie.  
Smoking cigarettes doesn't half make a hole in your pocket.  
He got too big for his shoes.  
I was tickled pink.  
We got lit up early last night.

JOSEPH T. WALCH,  
*Saltdean.*

### My Philosophy

Just sit and think in a lazylike way,  
Reminiscing on all that has passed,  
The happiness, pleasure, sorrow and strife,  
All of which has been unmasked.  
But what of this fast-moving, turbulent world?  
The future, what has it in store?  
Then let your reflections  
Guide all your directions,  
You draw on them more and more.  
So though you have heart-aches  
For all your mistakes,  
Some may be vital or vast,  
Then one dozy nod,  
Put your whole faith in God,  
He knows what is best at the last.

W. H. LACEY.

*We regret that it was not possible to include the last two items in the Braille REVIEW but they will appear next month.—Ed.*

### On the Journey

Mrs. Devlin, widow of our St. Dunstaner who died in 1951, has discovered some amusing lines among his papers. He would have liked to have them in the REVIEW and here are a few of them:—

*All adither and quiver  
You stutter and stammer  
Like a steam hammer  
Till the porter cuts it off.  
All right, I've got it here,  
All written nice and clear.  
"This way," you hear him say,  
Which way? "Sorry chum,"  
Oh, blast the wall!  
"Keep to the left," you hear him mutter,  
"The rail is here" (is this guy a nutter?).*

## Family News

June Tappin, Wembley, has passed her General Certificate of Education, and Belle Denmead has passed the same examination in cookery, biology and history.

After his examination successes last term, Roger Greatrex, Peacehaven, has gone into a new Form and is Head Boy.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Audrey Grace Fallowfield, Southwick, on September 14th, to Ernest James Edwards.

On August 31st, Malcolm Kittle, Ilford, to Ann Lewin, at a double wedding at which Ann's brother, Alan, was also married.

## From the Chairman's Postbag

"... but as so many kind letters have said, 'No one ever leaves St. Dunstan's (even when superannuated). The friendships, the loyal co-operation and service, the triumph over difficulties—in short, the wonderful spirit of that unique world.'"

B. McANDREW.

## Amatus a Lune

*A cold November night was dawning,  
The sand was glistening and a wind was roaring.  
And the yellow moon was calling, calling,  
My light on the cliff top high was flashing,  
Waves on the rocks below were crashing,  
How mad was I, how free;  
How bright the moon, how dark the sea.  
I ran to the steps where the tamarisk grew,  
Where the savage fighting falcon flew,  
Tripped on the last and cut my hand,  
The blood ran red in the yellow sand.  
But my sister moon was calling me;  
"Over the rocks to the dreadful sea."  
The waves thundered round, but I staggered on.*

*To join the moon in ecstasy.  
The water was ice to my trembling frame,  
Like ice it froze the heart and brain.  
Slowly I sank while my sister shone.  
Quietly drowned while the moon looked on.  
A cold November night was dawning,  
A sea was running and a wind was roaring,  
And a body lay among the rocks and weeds  
Upon the shore beside the sea.  
But was the moon at all concerned?  
Not she.*

M. VINCENT ALDRIDGE.

## Ovingdean Notes

September and October have been busy months at Ovingdean, with many St. Dunstaners deciding upon a late holiday this year. In addition to those holiday-makers, we have had the Autumn Deaf Reunion, with the Physiotherapy Conference following soon afterwards; later in October also will be the Chess Week-end.

At the Spring Deaf Reunion the men were taken to London Airport, and we tried to think of somewhere of interest for a visit in September. It was decided that a trip to the Royal Mint might meet the bill and so this was arranged. Despite the fact that they came back with no free samples, it was generally felt to have been a good idea. An occasion, too, was the visit of Sir Neville Pearson to Ovingdean to have a chat and tea with the men, and Mr. Wills and the Area Welfare Superintendents were also present. It has been a tradition of the Deaf Reunions to have a "Farewell" dinner on the last night. This year, for the first time, Stroods was not the rendezvous. Instead a first visit was made to Blackboys Inn, where a really excellent dinner was provided. Blackboys Inn is owned by the well-known stage comedian and actor, Ronald Shiner, who most generously provided the wine for the dinner.

The Battle of Britain was again commemorated throughout the country and a small number of St. Dunstaners attended the local Service of Remembrance at Brighton. An invitation was also received from the R.A.F. at Tangmere for a party of ex-R.A.F. St. Dunstaners to attend their annual "At Home" day. Three trainees were able to accept the invitation and had a wonderful time, which was made all the better by the extremely graphic and explicit commentaries of the various flying as it took place. An invitation was extended to the R.A.F. personnel to visit the Training Centre at some future date.

★ ★ ★

In September Mr. Anthony Asquith visited the Home to make "World Without Shadow," the first full-length sound film showing the work of St. Dunstan's.

John Mudge amusingly describes the descent of the film company upon our quiet scene on another page, but full tribute must be paid to Mr. Asquith, whose kindness and patience with us all made it a very happy and most interesting experience.



## “ In Memory ”

### Lance Corporal Albert Benning, M.M., *2nd Scottish Rifles*

We record with deep regret the death of Albert Benning, M.M., of Tudwick, Tiptree, at the age of sixty-four.

He was blinded on the Somme in October, 1916. He came to us in April, 1917, and trained as a poultry-farmer and he had continued most successfully with this work up to the time of his death. He was taken seriously ill on September 30th and he died on October 8th. Cremation took place at Ipswich on October 11th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is extended. Mrs. Benning is herself only slowly recovering from a major operation some nine months ago.

### Private William Henry Bamber, *Yorkshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. H. Bamber, of Blackpool, which occurred at the BLESMA Home, Lytham Road, Blackpool, on October 7th, after a short illness.

Wounded at Ypres in 1917, he suffered not only blindness but also gunshot wounds in the face and both arms, but he did not come under our care until August, 1953, when he was a very sick man. He did not take up any occupation.

He was a widower, but leaves a sister to whom we extend our sympathy.

### Private William Farmery, *Labour Corps*

We record with deep regret the death of W. Farmery, of Colden Common, Winchester. He was sixty-one.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in January, 1922, he trained as a boot and mat-maker. He carried on with both these occupations for a considerable time, but gave up boots in 1946, working with mats up to the time of his last illness. He was admitted to hospital on September 4th and he died there on September 28th, following an operation.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and family.

### Grenadier Harold Edgar Raymond, *1st Bn. Grenadier Guards*

With deep regret we record the death of H. E. Raymond, of Bournemouth, at the age of fifty-five. He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1920, and became a joiner, and although he had been in failing health for some time now he had continued with his work up to the time of his death.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

### Private Albert Henry Singleton, *1st Royal Marine Light Infantry*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. H. Singleton, of Skegness, which occurred in hospital on October 4th, after a very brief illness.

He served with his regiment from August 24th, 1914, and was wounded at Bouille de Greghae in September, 1916, when he also lost his right index finger. He came to us in December, 1916, and became a poultry farmer, but only for a short while. Later he became a mat-maker.

He died very suddenly as the result of a heart attack.

He was twice married and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Singleton and to his four children.

### Gunner Albert Spierling, *49th Siege Bn. Royal Garrison Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Spierling, of Bridgend, which occurred in hospital at Bevedere on October 5th.

He was an old soldier who had served from his enlistment in March, 1909, until August, 1918. He was gassed at Ypres in July, 1917, but did not come to us until as late as January, 1943, when, owing to the poor state of his health, he could not undertake basket-training until June, 1947. Even then his poor health made it impossible for him to continue. Our deep sympathy goes to his widow and his grown-up family.

## Births

DURRANT.—On October 12th, to the wife of W. Durrant, of Norwich, a son—Vernon James Keith.

ROWE.—On September 30th, to the wife of Eric Rowe, of Minehead, a daughter—Suzanna Mary.

SALTERS.—On September 30th, to the wife of G. J. Salters, of Liverpool, a daughter.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

BLACKETT.—To C. Blackett, of Plymouth, who has recently lost his sister.

RALPH.—To F. Ralph, of Rottingdean, whose brother died suddenly on September 19th.

SHURROCK.—To W. Shurrock, of Pontefract, whose wife died in hospital on October 19th.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### WAR PENSIONS

#### Where do we go from here?

SINCE the War Pensions improvements were announced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Pensions, Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter, I have had many letters from friends and strangers also. Almost without exception they express satisfaction and speak of the awards as being adequate, good, generous, or even very generous. I have naturally done a lot of thinking since the announcement, and it may be of some little interest to ex-Servicemen and women generally if I set down my thoughts, for what they are worth, and answer some of the questions that arose in my mind and no doubt in the minds of others.

What did we say? For ten years we have said that we wanted the basic rate of war pension for the private soldier to be 90s. a week as a minimum. This was a fair figure and could be thoroughly justified by any calculation at the present date. What have we got? A basic rate of 85s. This is 5.5 per cent. below our target, or to put it another way, 94.5 per cent. of our target. Disappointing? Yes, a little, but gratifying also because man seldom gets what he wants or deserves in this world and, as I said in the House of Commons, this award goes a very long way.

What do we say now? Let us examine a familiar analogy; not wholly appropriate, but I think illustrative. If the six hundred odd thousand war pensioners were employed by one nationalised industry, or by a number of firms and were all members of the same or associated Trade Unions, and if they had decided that unless they got "ninety bob" they would all go on strike, it is my bet that they would accept 85s. and call off the strike. But we cannot go on strike, and we have no bargaining power, and we can only get a rise by goodwill and the only way we can indicate our acceptance of an award with goodwill is by saying so. So I consider we ought to say 'thank you very much' to the Government who made the improvement, to the taxpayers who pay for it, and the salary and wage earners who create the wealth out of which we get it. We do not thank the Government for political reasons, or with political motive, but simply because they hold the purse strings and have opened them for us. Goodwill should be matched by goodwill. To fail to acknowledge our thanks to the Government, taxpayer and workers would, in my opinion, be discourteous, unfair and very unwise.

Do we lose face by a generous acknowledgment? Not at all. The only people who will feel that they lose face are those who cannot see the wood for the trees; St. Dunstaners, though blind, can see further than that.



What do we do now? The best thing we can do is to study the whole field of war pensions and see if there are any points at which the shoe pinches particularly severely and make representations to the Ministry thereon. In doing this one should bear in mind what the new awards really mean. For the 20 per cent. war pensioner, of whom there are 210,000, they mean that he is getting 1s. a week less than he would have had if we had got "ninety bob." Important as the "bob" is, it is hard to go to town about it. For the war pensioners between 40 per cent. and 90 per cent., they are a few shillings below what they would have had if we had got the "ninety bob," but everyone of them who is sixty-five years of age and upwards gets considerably more because of the age allowance; and many get a full increased Unemployability Allowance. For the 100 per cent. men we should remember these facts:—

Ten years ago, when our campaign started, the basic rate of War Pensions was 45s. and now it is 85s.; the War Widow's Pension was 35s. and is now 66s.; the Unemployability Allowance has been more than doubled and its benefits made more widespread; the Attendance Allowance has been nearly doubled, and the Comforts Allowance and Age Allowance have been introduced. We may, I think, feel that we have done very well to gain such generous improvements.

We have not got "ninety bob," but I do not think we should make a shibboleth of this figure, or any other figure, and ignore the general situation both as regards the welfare of war pensioners and the affairs of our country as a whole. The essence of the civilised life, and especially of civilised life in a Welfare State, with its advanced conception of kindness and consideration, is that no class presses its claims unduly or overplays its hand. It is, of course, true that special allowances benefit only a few tens of thousands, but they include many for whom the ex-Service movement as a whole, and indeed the people generally, will be particularly, and I think rightly, solicitous, namely the war blinded, the double amputees, the bedridden, and those who have been very badly hurt, and we rejoice that they receive so much more than 90s., which helps them materially to bear their lifelong handicaps.

In the House of Commons I also asked Members of all Parties, and made an appeal to the nation as a whole, to see to it that the value of money was maintained so that these awards, and indeed all pensions and other fixed incomes, maintain their value.

### Staff Changes

The end of the year will bring a number of staff retirements, and among them will be those of friends of long standing. Some will be known only to a special group. All have given St. Dunstan's loyal service, and their departure will be regretted.

Mr. Leslie Banks, M.B.E., leaves us after forty years, in the course of which he has played many parts, but it is as our Pensions Officer for the past twenty-five years that he will be best known. His work in this capacity, and the splendid personal service he gave to practically all St. Dunstaners of the two wars, was rewarded by King George VI with the honour of M.B.E. in 1948, and there could have been no more popular award. He himself was an Old Contemptible, and was severely disabled in the First World War. No one knows the rules better than he, and many St. Dunstaners have been helped by him to secure their rights.

Mr. Banks' work as Pensions Officer is being undertaken by Miss H. Warter, who has worked with him for the past twelve years.

Miss Frances Morris leaves us after nearly as many years. She was first a young and popular V.A.D. Later she became Sports Sister, first at the Bungalow, Townsend House, and St. John's Lodge, then at Brighton. For six years she taught the making of nets and wool rugs at Brighton, and after leaving us for a short while, rejoined the staff in 1935 to take charge of the Netting and Wool Rug Department at the Raglan Street Stores, and to be Sports Sister working with Corporal Major Bill Tovell. She, too, was a war casualty for in 1940, while motoring on the Kingston By-Pass, she was bombed and machine-gunned from a German aeroplane which swooped low, seriously disabling her for two years. She worked at Church Stretton and the St. Dunstan's Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, until the return to Brighton, and in latter years has been Occupational Therapist at West House.

Retiring after forty years is Mr. S. Durrant, Chief Boot Instructor and Technical Visitor, and Mr. E. I. Buckley, Basket Instructor and Technical Visitor, who leaves us after thirty-five years' service.

Our craftsmen will be grateful to Mr. Durrant and Mr. Buckley, whose visits to them in their homes were always so welcome and their friendship so appreciated.

Mr. N. Downs, whom everyone, St. Dunstaners and members of the staff alike, will know better as "Drummer," also retires shortly. He, too, joined the staff in 1922 and has remained with the Appeals Department on box collecting and as "unofficial representative" ever since.

In the Appeals Department there are other changes which will interest St. Dunstaners. Mr. Ernest Stanford, C.B.E., Appeals Organiser since the outbreak of the 1939-45 war when he came to us with a splendid record of successful appeals for the British Empire Cancer Campaign, is relinquishing his full-time position, and his place is being taken by Lieut. Commander R. C. B. Buckley, G.M., R.N., who served in the Royal Navy both before and during the last war and is himself a St. Dunstaner. Commander Buckley continued working for the Admiralty until three years ago, when he joined the staff at St. Dunstan's to work with Mr. Stanford. He will be assisted by Mr. J. Pringle, B.Sc. (Econ.), who has also given splendid service as Assistant Appeals Organiser for the past ten years.

To all these good friends who are retiring we wish health, happiness and contentment for many years, with our thanks for their devotion to St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstan's men. To those who will take their place we send our good wishes. IAN FRASER.

### Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

On Sunday, December 8th, at 11.15 a.m., a Service will be held at the Ovingdean Chapel to honour the memory of the Founder of St. Dunstan's, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart. The Service will be conducted by St. Dunstan's Padre, the Rev. W. J. Taylor, and our President, Sir Neville Pearson, will read the Lesson. Sir Ian Fraser will give the Address.

★ ★ ★

On the morning of Monday, December 9th, the day on which Sir Arthur died thirty-six years ago, a party of St. Dunstaners will leave Headquarters for Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Lloyds, at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

### Remembrance Day, 1957

On Sunday, November 10th, St. Dunstaners in all parts of the country paid tribute at War Memorial Services to those who lost their lives in two World Wars. In London, St. Dunstaners were among the ex-Servicemen and women of all arms who, led by Sir Ian Fraser, paraded at the Cenotaph.

On the evening of Saturday, November 9th, St. Dunstaners were in the audience at the Royal Albert Hall for the Remembrance Festival and Service, at which Sir

Ian, for the last time as President of the British Legion, spoke the deeply moving exhortation: "They shall grow not old. . ."

### London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—As we go to press our Bridge team in the London Business Houses League has played four matches and has won them all. Their opponents have been Carreras, Aquarius, Civil Service and Uni-They have six more matches to play.

### War Pensions Award

The following letter was sent to Sir Ian Fraser from Commandant Fawcett, on November 8th, 1957:

"DEAR SIR IAN,

Following the announcement of the Pensions awards, and having heard the recording of your address at the British Legion Rally, I have been approached by a spokesman for those St. Dunstaners at present resident at Ovingdean to express their deep and sincere appreciation for all your efforts on behalf of ex-Servicemen generally, and to congratulate you, and through you your Committee, for the most successful culmination of your campaign.

The general acceptance of the awards is almost unanimously described as 'generous.'

I read this letter to the men in the Dining Room. It was approved by a show of hands without any dissensions. The letter was composed from suggestions made by a small delegation of the men.

Yours sincerely,

L. FAWCETT,  
Commandant."



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

The Chairman's article regarding most of us getting into a groove was, I thought, rather interesting and to the point. I must say that I strongly endorse his views.

I have just returned from a fortnight's visit to the Lake District and, despite the fact that my own particular job keeps me "on my toes," I was startled at some of the changes that have taken place and, indeed, which are still going on! I especially noted the way people are living nowadays, the attitude of workmen, the almost disappearance of good restaurants in favour of the "Help Yourself Service," etc.

I made one very interesting discovery, though, which I feel some St. Dunstaners might like to pursue. At Ambleside I visited the "Studio," where they sell beautiful pottery, woollen articles, paintings, etc. There I spoke to Mr. Cook, the proprietor, at his potter's wheel, and was delighted when he agreed, without hesitation, that a blind person could quite easily do this sort of work. It was quite fascinating to watch him turn balls of Cornish clay into vases, bowls and ashtrays, etc., by the simple manipulation of his fingers. The wheel, by the way, was treadled by his feet. I understand that the painting of these articles can be done before or after "firing." This studio also has several machines for knitwear.

I would suggest that those who are interested could pursue this craft independently and sell their produce personally, or create a common market. It would be interesting to see how many to whom this type of work would appeal.

Incidentally, the Lake District affords a wonderful holiday for walks, which need not be strenuous, either! There is an excellent Ribble and Cumberland 'bus service, and the best centre is, without doubt, Keswick.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN F. PROCTOR.

\* \* \*

DEAR EDITOR,

Sir Ian's remarks concerning the possibility of getting set in a groove is very timely in view of the fact that the men of World War II are themselves approaching that period when the armchair and the

fireside appeal more than the pursuit of those former youthful diversions, such as bird-watching, bunny-hugging, football, etc., etc. It is a curious trait of the civilised world that the zest for life and new experiences seems to come to a complete stop when the hunter has caught his "bird" and settled back to reminiscences on the days of his youth. One cannot help noticing this when visiting Ovingdean or the annual reunions, and much as we enjoy meeting all our old pals of ten, twenty, thirty, forty years ago we find that the mind is always carried back with "Do you remember?" instead of "What do you think?" Most of us are born into a groove and service with the Forces for most merely means or meant a temporary stepping out of one groove into another, and then stepping back into the old groove chiselled out by parents. I have noticed in our village how young men who played with my own children went to the war or national service and have returned to follow in the same groove as their fathers and grandfathers.

We St. Dunstaners have everything at our hands to make life interesting, but the snag is that typewriters, Braille books, talking books, dominoes and cards all have a spot of glue gluing us to that chair Sir Ian tells us to get out of.

I have a formula that may be of service.

Morning, work; afternoon, weather permitting, walk; evening, workshop and wireless (a grand combination). Punctuate this with Braille reading after each meal and a visit to the local after the nine o'clock news to get the local news, and then off to the pictures in dreamland. I have not escaped the middle-aged spread, but I have escaped from the grooves or at least rounded off those rough edges that irritate.

You can't see? Well, never mind, you can think, and remember, you think better with your eyes shut.

Yours, etc.,

A. J. RADFORD,  
Castle Cary.

## "Cast Off the Darkness"

There have been many books on blindness and several autobiographies by blind authors, but "Cast Off the Darkness,"\* a book which was recently published by Peter Davies, Ltd., is of a blindness which was self-inflicted.

\*"Cast Off the Darkness," Peter Davies, Ltd., 16/-

Peter Putnam was an undergraduate of twenty-one at Princeton University who, deeply disillusioned, decided to end his life. He shot himself, but only succeeded in blinding himself for life. What were his reactions? Not remorse or despair or lasting grief, but relief. He had found himself and "what was blindness or eyesight beside the miracle of my new-found invulnerability?"

The way in which he adapts himself to the life of a blind person is familiar, but the interesting point is that the author does so unaided and unprompted. In the familiar surroundings of his home, he finds his own way about, soon he is swimming in the sea alone, he type-writes, and he uses a large watch, substitute for the later Braille watch.

Then he acquires a guide-dog and much of the early part of the book is devoted to Minnie, his guide dog, and his days of training with her. She represents the "sole bridge to the future," and with her, and with some misgiving on the part of the University authorities, he returns to Princeton, there to win his M.A. and Ph.D., to fall in love and later to marry, to win recognition as an historical scholar and translator—and to ski (he writes with justifiable pride of his ski-ing prowess, acquired painfully and patiently with the help of his wife).

To-day, at thirty, Mr. Putnam leads a very full life, with numerous interests, many of them on behalf of the blind.

### Press Cutting

*From the London "Evening News":*

"A blind man of 74 is head of one of the biggest sweet-firms in the United States, with three thousand people on his pay roll and shops in more than two hundred cities.

He has been blind for thirty years, travels a minimum of 30,000 miles a year, and does not read a word of Braille.

His name is John D. Hayes. He is Chairman of Fanny Farmer Candy Shops which, under his direction, has grown into the largest manufacturing retailer of sweets in the nation and is still growing.

Of the three things executives do most—read, travel and make decisions—Hayes does as much as any. Instead of Braille, everything, from statistical reports to novels, is read to him by his wife—'and two good secretaries.'"

### Gardening Successes

With five entries, E. J. West, of Egham, Surrey, won a first, second and third prize for his outdoor chrysanthemums at the Staines "Lino" Horticultural Society Annual Show. In the Society's Chrysanthemum Show two months later, he took a first, a second and six third prizes. He entered for ten classes and took prizes in eight.

At Grange-over-Sands Local Chrysanthemum Show, J. Wood's entries won two firsts, two seconds, and a fourth prize, and the Cup for the highest number of points. Mrs. Wood's entries took second place.

At Diss Social Centre Show, E. F. Goodley took two firsts, two seconds and a "commended" for his plants and vegetables.

### Grandfathers

J. Macfarlane, of Ilford; N. Singleton, of Mark, Somerset; T. Callaghan, of Woodbridge (the thirteenth grandchild).

### A New Club

In May, 1957, Ted Dudley, of Croydon, suggested the formation of a Club for St. Dunstaners living in or near Croydon. He asked St. Dunstaners who were interested to contact him and, as a result, a St. Dunstan's Club has been formed in Sutton, Surrey. The first meeting was on September 28th when twenty-six St. Dunstaners, with their escorts, had their first "get-together." There were also present Lady Onslow, Miss Stevens, and that indefatigable Club helper and friend, Mrs. Spurway.

The next meeting will be at the Adult School in Benhill Avenue, Sutton, on *Saturday, November 30th*, and Ted says: "I hope that everyone who is coming will let me know as early as possible as this will help Mrs. Spurway with the catering. At this meeting we hope to form our Committee and from there on things should run quite smoothly. We are laying on darts, cards and dominoes as a start.

"So until our next meeting, good luck, chaps."

P.S.—On Saturday, November 30th, there will also be a "Bring and Buy" Sale to raise funds for the Club.



## News from Australia

The Victorian Blinded Soldiers' Association Bowling Club's Annual Report showed a wonderfully successful and happy season. During the season they had visited some fifty odd clubs, engaging in all some seventy-one games—and how they enjoyed every minute of it. The Championship results were as follows:—

*Singles*—Winner: L. Cropley.

Runner-up: E. Drew.

*Handicap Singles*—Winner: G. Aarons.

Runner-up: R. Archer.

*Pairs*—Winners: G. Aarons and T. Corboy.

Runners-up: L. Houlst and E. Bell.

The Club has twenty-two members.

★ ★ ★

At the 13th Biennial Conference of the Australian Blinded Soldiers' Association, held in Adelaide in April, the opening ceremony was performed by the State Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Sir Robert George, and delegates to the Conference were delighted and highly honoured when they heard that His Excellency the Governor General of Australia, Field Marshal Sir William Slim, had expressed a wish to meet them the following day. On that memorable occasion, Mr. J. A. Whittle introduced His Excellency to the gathering, and Mr. P. J. Lynch officially welcomed the Governor General who said he was always proud to meet ex-Servicemen and particularly pleased to meet those present that day, whom he knew represented blinded ex-servicemen from all parts of the Commonwealth.

★ ★ ★

After sixteen years as physiotherapist at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, without a day off through illness, S. C. Tarry, of Clapham, has retired. He was presented by the Deputy Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. R. Ascott, with a silver tankard, who spoke of him as "a wonderful example in overcoming his disability . . . one of the most cheerful people about the hospital."

Mr. Tarry, who will continue in private practice, serves on many varied committees and is president of the local branch of the British Legion.

### WISE WORDS

Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind is to close it again on something solid.—G. K. Chesterton.

## From All Quarters

John A. Oriel, C.B.E., M.C., F.R.I.C., is now a National Member of the Executive Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

★ ★ ★

F. Hawes, of Swindon, who is President of the Swindon Branch of the International Friendship League, is also Chairman of the Swindon and District Writers' Circle.

★ ★ ★

W. E. Bignell, of Edmonton, won a certificate of merit at the Edmonton Arts and Crafts Exhibition early this month for a pair of car rugs. He is a keen worker for the British Legion and the R.A.O.B.

★ ★ ★

Charles E. Temperton, M.M., of Hull, represented his regiment, the 1/4th East Yorkshire Regiment, at the 10th East Yorkshire Regiment dinner on October 19th.

★ ★ ★

H. Bridgeman, of Derby, won a certificate of merit at the International Handicrafts Exhibition for a lady's centre cane shopping basket. Other winners of Certificates of Merit were Mrs. M. Stanway and G. H. Fisk, of Colchester.

★ ★ ★

Writing on October 18th, George E. Fox, of Horndean, said that it was fifty years to the day that he was issued with a regimental number.

★ ★ ★

Sir Ian Fraser was the speaker in "The Week in Westminster" on November 2nd, when the series began again after the Parliamentary recess.

★ ★ ★

Mr. Arthur Garbett preached at the Memorial Service at Stockton Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday. The Mayor, Alderman H. G. Atkinson, was in the crowded congregation.

★ ★ ★

Yet another successful entrant in the International Handicrafts Exhibition at Earls Court. C. J. Nichols, of Weybridge, submitted a fire-screen and was awarded a Certificate of Merit for General Craft Work. When he was first wounded, and before his sight went, he worked the tapestry; now he has made the wooden frame.

## Family News

Alfred Jennings, son of S. Jennings, of Bradford, is retiring from the Police Force after ten years' service to take up an appointment as House Master of one of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Mrs. Jennings will be Matron.

\* \* \*

Brian Hold (Yeovil), who is apprenticed to Aircraft Machine Tool Making, has passed the Intermediate Examination of the City and Guilds in all subjects.

\* \* \*

Sydney Wass (Brighton) has passed his General Certificate of Education in English and French.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Edward Carney, Dunstable, on October 12th, to Miss Eve Marion Scott.

Barbara Ann Scott, to David John Smith, on October 17th—her parents' wedding anniversary and her own 21st birthday.

## Chess

We had another very successful Chess Week-end this year and a record entry, despite the absence of several regular players.

Bill Hodder and I both scored three and a half points in the Cup Competition, but on the Sonnen Berger count, the trophy came to me. Kirkbright and Blackmore (who did well in his first attempt), were joint third and fourth with three points each. George Fallowfield, who was not in his usual form, was out of the prize list for a change.

On Saturday evening, Mr. R. W. Bonham gave his usual simultaneous display, this time tackling eight players, giving some of them a Knight and some a Rook. He won all eight games and gave bits of advice during the display. Interest was very keen and the standard of play improves every year. We may try a handicap next year, to give the weaker players a better chance. Mr. Bonham knows the strength of each player and I shall probably ask him to work out the handicap. It should prove most interesting.

I should like to express our thanks again to Miss Carlton for making our week-end such an enjoyable one. She is getting quite expert in working out the rather complicated systems. Our thanks also to Matron for her interest and for presenting the prizes.

CHARLIE KELK.

## Miss M. Bamberger

Early St. Dunstaners will hear with deep regret of the death of Miss M. Bamberger, who was one of our first V.A.D.s, and remained one of our most loyal and generous friends. In recent years she had lived privately at Seaford, but her interest in St. Dunstan's never grew less. Her health had deteriorated in the past few months and it was with reluctance that she was persuaded to enter a nursing home, where she died on November 6th.

## Mrs. J. Broughton

Her friends will also hear with deep regret of the death of Mrs. J. Broughton, a well known and much loved Braille teacher and good friend of many St. Dunstaners of both wars. Mrs. Broughton had been living a very active life until quite recently, for she took a great interest in many things, but St. Dunstan's always came first with her. She was making good progress from a previous heart attack when she died suddenly at Walmer on November 10th.

St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral services of Miss Bamberger and Mrs. Broughton by St. Dunstaners and members of the staff at Brighton.

## M. Henri Izaac

We have learned with great regret of the death of M. Henri Izaac, President of l'Union des Aveugles de Guerre. M. Izaac, himself a blinded man, rendered outstanding service to French blinded ex-servicemen and our deep sympathy goes out to our French comrades in the great loss they have sustained.

## Brighton Club Notes

### Important—Calling All Brightonians

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the second Thursday in December, the 12th, to be followed by a grand domino drive and excellent refreshments. All St. Dunstaners and escorts in the Brighton area are cordially invited.

Our latest venture is a Bridge Team taking part in the Sussex County Contract tournament. Up to the time of writing not much success, nevertheless we are having some most enjoyable games and making lots of new friends.

FRANK A. RHODES.



## “In Memory”

**Private James Barley, 8th Lincolnshire Regiment**

With deep regret we record the death of J. Barley, of Crosby, Scunthorpe, which occurred very suddenly on November 7th.

He served from October, 1914, until his discharge in January, 1916, having come to us in November of 1915. He trained as a mat-maker and carried this on until 1945, when his health would not allow him to continue. He had been in poor health for many years.

He was a widower and our sincere sympathy is sent to his five children.

**Private Henry Herbert Barnard, 8th Royal Sussex Regiment**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. H. Barnard, of Wanstead, E.11. He was sixty-five.

He came to St. Dunstan's in July, 1916, and trained as a bootmaker and basket-maker. He gave up baskets after a short time but continued with rugs until the outbreak of war, when he worked on rugs and, later, netting. He had been in poor health, however, for some time. He was admitted to hospital on October 4th and he died there on October 28th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and her family.

**Mrs. Agnes M. Clewlow, O.B.E., Royal Arsenal, Woolwich**

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on October 21st, of Mrs. A. M. Clewlow, of Winchester, who lost her sight in 1917 while working as a munition worker at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

“Peggy” came to us in January, 1924, after winning a scholarship to the Royal Normal College for the Blind, but she suffered very poor health and was not able to continue her studies. She was the first girl to come to us for training and she was a true St. Dunstaner.

Our deep sympathy goes out to her relatives, and particularly to her sister and brother-in-law with whom she lived.

**Corporal Timothy John Fitzgerald, Royal Army Medical Corps**

We record with deep regret the death of T. J. Fitzgerald, of Kirkstall, Leeds, which occurred in hospital on November 1st. He died fortified by the rites of the Catholic Church.

He served from August, 1941, until his discharge in January, 1946, but when he came to us in February, 1953, he was then far from being a fit man. On account of his poor health, he could not undertake any training.

Requiem Mass was at the Church of the Assumption, Leeds.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Fitzgerald and her son and daughter.

**Private Albert Edward Ratcliff, Royal West Kents**

We record with deep regret the death of A. E. Ratcliff, of Chatham, at the age of sixty.

Discharged from the Army in June, 1916, he first came to us in May, 1949, as a borderline case, but in September, 1952, he was admitted to full benefits. His health, however, prevented any training and had deteriorated over the past two years. He died suddenly on October 17th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

**Private William John Berry, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Berry, of Belfast.

Enlisting in August, 1914, he was wounded at Kemmel the same year, and coming to St. Dunstan's in April, 1915, was among the first St. Dunstaners. His general health has always been poor but he trained originally as a mat-maker. He gave this up in 1927 to do centre-cane work and settled in Bangor in 1929. He was well-known in the district for his local sales, mainly trays; he was also keenly interested in poultry-keeping in a small way.

He was twice married and he leaves a widow, to whom our deep sympathy is offered.

Our St. Dunstaner, Albert Spierling, of Bridgend, died on October 4th, and not October 5th, as reported last month.

### Births

**DURANT.**—On November 1st, to the wife of G. Durant, of West Worthing, a daughter—Jill Lesley.

**TYBINSKI.**—On November 11th, to the wife of M. Tybinski, of Ipswich, a daughter—Monika.

### Marriage

**GADD.**—On October 21st, R. Gadd.

### Forty-four Years Married

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. Smith, of Blackpool, married 44 years on October 14th.

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. W. Westaway, of Yeovil, whose fortieth wedding anniversary was on October 25th. Congratulations.

★ ★ ★

We extend our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. W. Samworth, of Edgware, whose daughter-in-law has died.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## Annual Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

### Seaside Home Re-named

"Pearson House is to be the new name for our seaside Home at Brighton, hitherto called West House," said Sir Ian Fraser, speaking at the Annual Memorial Service held in the St. Dunstan's Chapel at Ovingdean, on Sunday, December 8th. "Our physiotherapists, supported by other St. Dunstaners, have expressed the wish that the name of the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., should be more obviously identified with the work that he founded, and with general approval, therefore, the oldest and most popular of our Homes has been re-named. Thus is St. Dunstan's honoured by the daily use of so illustrious a name."

"Sir Arthur was our best friend," said Sir Ian. "He taught us to regard blindness not as an affliction but as a handicap that could be overcome. Earlier St. Dunstaners who knew him personally came under his spell, but all St. Dunstaners thereafter, including the last to join us,

benefit by his foresight and selfless work; so does the whole blind world.

"Our old Chief changed the lives of the young men who were blinded in the First World War and left behind him a spirit and a tradition which have inspired the work for the blind in every country in the world."

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., President of St. Dunstan's, and son of the Founder, read the Lesson, and the Service was conducted by the Padre, the Reverend W. Taylor.

### At Sir Arthur's Grave

On Monday, December 9th, the thirty-sixth anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Mr. J. Murray, of Friern Barnet, and Mr. R. Cameron, of Wembley, escorted by Mr. R. Willis, went with Mr. A. D. Lloyds, Secretary of St. Dunstan's, to Hampstead Cemetery. Here a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave on behalf of St. Dunstaners in every part of the world.

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Listening

IN the "Readers' Digest" Braille edition the other day, I read a review of a book on Listening. Its author pointed out that while you can think at many hundreds and even thousands of words a minute, you can only listen to, say, from 120—200 words a minute, because that is the limit of reading aloud. Accordingly you tend to think of all sorts of things while a man is speaking to you, and if you are not careful, you lose the thread of



what he is saying. I am sure from my experience that this is true. The author suggests a remedy, namely, to concentrate our swiftly running thoughts on some aspect of the matter the speaker is talking about, or even repeat to yourself the phrase he is using, so that your mind does not wander away. Although listening is a slow business compared with sighted reading, you can in the end save time if you have taken in what has been said or read to you, so that it does not have to be re-read. I commend practice at this art, for efficient listening is of great importance to the blind who are engaged in active work. There is, of course, another kind of listening, namely, when you are merely passing the time. I often listen to a Talking Book with half an ear and think of other things at the same time. This I find a restful pastime, say on a Sunday afternoon.

*Tailpiece.*—A friend said to me the other day, "How can you sit and listen for hours at a time to speakers in the House of Commons?" I said, "I do not sit and listen all the time. Sometimes I only sit. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out through the other." "Yes," he said, unkindly, "and of course there's nothing in between your ears to stop it."

### Colonel Mike

Lieut.-Colonel Mike Ansell is a most distinguished St. Dunstaner. One-time crack horseman and show-jumper, now chairman of the British Show Jumping Association and Show Manager of the International Horse Show, he has been appointed Colonel of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, his old regiment, which he was commanding when he was blinded. The Colonel of the Regiment is the head of the regiment, and not to be confused with the Commanding Officer. He is chosen by the senior serving and retired officers of the regiment, and acts as ceremonial head on certain occasions, and as adviser to the Commanding Officer. The appointment is confirmed by the Queen, and it is an exceptional honour for any soldier.

Many and various are the appointments which St. Dunstaners have held, but this is the first time one of our number has been made Colonel of his regiment. Congratulations to Colonel Mike.

### St. Dunstaner Newspaperman Dies

Wing Commander W. T. Curtis-Willson, M.B.E., J.P., died early this month, aged 69. As Sergeant W. T. Curtis-Willson, he entered St. Dunstan's in 1916, some two months after me. He recovered a little sight, which later left him altogether. In spite of his handicap, he became a successful political agent. In 1933 he took up newspaper work and subsequently became Chairman and Managing Director of the famous weekly newspaper, *The Brighton and Hove Herald*, which celebrated its 150th birthday last year. During the Second World War he raised and commanded five Squadrons of the Air Training Corps in Brighton. He was a wise and influential figure in the town. He was President of the Newspaper Society in 1950 and travelled widely all over the English-speaking world. He had been a member of the Press Council since its foundation.

Brighton, and St. Dunstan's, and the newspaper world will miss him.

### A Happy Christmas

Lady Fraser and I will drink a toast to St. Dunstaners all over the world on Christmas Day.

IAN FRASER.

### Presentations

Several St. Dunstaners have written asking me to open a Presentation Fund for Mr. L. Banks on his retirement. I have also been asked to open another Fund for Miss F. Morris. I shall be very pleased to act as Honorary Treasurer to these Funds and will St. Dunstaners who wish to subscribe to either Fund please send their contributions to me at Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

A. D. LLOYDS.

### Rotary

C. J. R. Fawcett is President of Bourne-mouth Rotary Club for the year 1957-58.

### Grandfathers

F. G. ("Geoff.") Ogg, of Natal; G. E. C. Rushton, Northumberland; A. T. Cropley, of Saltdean (a new grand-daughter); F. Matthewman, of Northampton (a daughter for Doreen, in Canada); the eighth grandchild for H. E. Wood, of Bentley, Doncaster.

## London Club Notes

To St. Dunstaners and their families everywhere—A merry Christmas and the best of luck for 1958.

SAM WEBSTER,

*Chairman.*

*Annual General Meeting.*—The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held at the Club on Thursday, January 16th, 1958, at 6.45 p.m. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend.

*Bridge.*—On Saturday, October 19th, a Bridge Drive was held in the Club for members only. This drive was sponsored by Miss Hensley, who provided the prizes and also a very nice tea, with the addition of a special trifle supplied by Miss Morrah. Our thanks to these ladies for the very great interest they have always taken in our Club.

## The Bridge Congress

"A wonderful week-end." This was the comment heard on all sides at the conclusion of the Bridge Congress at Ovingdean, and there is no doubt about it, thanks to the Matron, Commandant and the whole of the staff, who combined to make the week-end one great success. Our thanks, too, to Miss Moseley, at London Headquarters, who was responsible for the correspondence and travelling arrangements to Brighton; thank you very much for a job well done. We are grateful to Mr. A. Field and Mr. C. Stokes, who directed us through our competitions with masterly ease and patience. We are lucky to have two such friends who are always ready to help and give us the benefit of their vast experience. A warm welcome to the new players who took part in the competitions this year and may we have more next year.

RESULTS:—

*Pairs:*

1st	2nd	3rd
A. Wiltshire	J. Brown	H. Gover
L. Douglas	J. Fleming	E. Van Niekerk

*Fours*

F. Rhodes	J. Simmons	C. Kelk
E. Carpenter	H. Kirkbright	C. White
H. Gover	G. A. Jolly	A. Craigie
E. Van Niekerk	W. Bishop	A. Macdonald

*Sunday Morning Drive*

L. Caudle	J. Simmons	A. Caldwell
C. Bulman	H. Kirkbright	F. Matthewman

*Parity:* Blodwen Simons and Violet Formstone.

*Sunday Afternoon Drive*

F. Winter	S. Webster	F. Rhodes
C. Thompson	B. Smith	E. Carpenter

*Parity:*—W. Scott and D. Gray

*Consolation Prizes*

J. Clare	R. Armstrong	
D. Giffard	M. Delaney	G. P. B.

## Mr. A. W. Tuke Retires

On Friday, 29th November, 1957, the Council of St. Dunstan's gave a luncheon to express their thanks to Mr. A. W. Tuke, Chairman of Barclays Bank, on his retirement from the post of Honorary Treasurer of St. Dunstan's, which he had occupied for ten years. Sir Neville Pearson presided.

Sir Ian Fraser, proposing the Toast of the Guest of Honour, said:—

"We owe much for his ten years' service. He has guarded and guided our financial interests and investments with skill and painstaking care." Sir Ian Fraser said that for the past twenty years, leading figures in Barclays Bank had been St. Dunstan's Honorary Treasurer, and they were most grateful to them, as well as to the officials of the Bank itself, for the skilled advice and help they had so willingly given. He was glad to say that the tradition would be continued, for Sir Cecil Ellerton, Deputy Chairman of the Bank, had kindly offered to serve and had been appointed Honorary Treasurer in Mr. Tuke's place.

## St. Dunstan's (Sutton) Club

The Club had a meeting on November 30th, with an attendance of over fifty, and at this meeting a Committee was elected as follows:—

*President:* Lady Onslow.

*Vice-Presidents:* Mrs. Spurway and Miss Stevens.

*Chairman:* Mr. E. Dudley.

*Treasurer:* Mr. B. Giffard.

*Secretary:* Miss F. Parsons.

Messrs. B. Miller, B. Daw, J. Taylor, E. Cookson and J. Luker.

The annual subscription of the Club will be 10s., which will cover the member, his wife or escort, and children, if any.

The next meeting will be on January 11th, when any new members will be very welcome at the Adult School Hall, Benhill Avenue, Sutton. Owing to the enthusiasm of the members, the Adult School Hall authorities are being asked if the meeting time may be brought forward to 2.0 p.m. instead of 3.30 p.m., so that there will be more time for games. The Club, however, will still close at 6.30 p.m.

TED DUDLEY.

## Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chapple, of Enfield, November 17th; Mr. and Mrs. W. Megson, of Carterton, December 15th.  
Congratulations.



## The Bridge Congress

What enthusiasm! No other Bridge Congress in the world starts at 8.45 a.m.!

Two hands have been selected from this year's Teams of Four event and may afford pleasure in analysis.

Board 2	Dealer West	N.S. Vul.
	S. 10 3 2	
	H. K 6 5	
	D. A Q 10 9 7	
	C. Q J	
	N	
S —		W
H Q 3 2	E	S K 8 6 4
D K J 8 6 4 3 2		HA J 9 8 7
C 10 8 7		D 5
		CK 6 5
	S	
	S. A Q J 9 7 5	
	H. 10 4	
	D. —	
	C. A 9 4 3 2	

What should be the contract? In practice, nearly all Souths finished in "Four Spades," with West leading Queen of Hearts. South trumps the third round of Hearts. Can he now make the ten tricks against best defence? The answer is No, but work it out after South leads Queen of Spades to trick 4 which East must take, to commence the play to keep South to 9 tricks.

Board 22	Dealer West	Game All
	S. 7 5 2	
	H. 8 6 5	
	D. A Q 10 9 7 5 3	
	C. —	
	N	
S K J 10 4 3	W	E
H 9 7 3		S A Q
D K J 2		H Q J 2
C 6 2		D 8 6
		CA K Q 9 8 7
	S	
	S. 9 8 6	
	H. A K 10 4	
	D. 4	
	C. J 10 5 4 3	

This one is atomic; some teams struck oil where both NS and EW scored heavily. Examine the legitimate bids that can be (and were) made. West passed, and North in many cases opened Three Diamonds doubled by East. Should West stand this? Some did and North scored plus 670, nine tricks duly made. Some Wests bid 4 Spades; some Souths rudely doubled and NS scored 1100, taking the first seven tricks.

Some Easts and some Wests played in 3 No Trumps. Where it was played by West they were two off, NS taking the first six tricks on a heart lead. Where, however, East played the contract, it can be made! There are so many interesting

points in the play, it is worth a little study before reading on. South leads 9 Spades. Winning tricks are italicised.

S	W	N	E
9 S	3 S	2 S	A S (1)
4 D	J D	Q D	6 D (2)
K H	3 H	8 H (3)	Q H
8 S	K S	5 S	Q S
6 S	J S	7 S	8 D
4 H (4)	10 S	3 D	7 C (4)
3 C	4 S	5 D	8 C
2 C (5)			

Explanations:—

- (1) Must unblock.
- (2) This is the key play.
- (3) North must not play A Diamonds or East will make King plus 5 Spades and 3 Clubs.
- (4) Study East's and South's last 8 cards to see the end play approaching.
- (5) East now plays A K Q 9 of Clubs which South must win and lead from A 10 of Hearts into East's Q 2.

A. E. FIELD.

## Miss J. Outing

Miss J. Outing, who has been Welfare Superintendent in charge of the Southern Area for the past nine years, leaves St. Dunstan's at the end of the year to enter a Religious Order. Miss Outing has been a firm friend and capable adviser, and all who know her wish her well in her new vocation.

Miss P. J. Rogers has been appointed to assume responsibility for the Southern Area from 1st January next. She comes to us with a wealth of experience gained in both the business and welfare spheres which will stand her in good stead in her new post.

## Staff Dinner and Dance

Sir Ian Fraser was the Guest of Honour at the St. Dunstan's Staff Dinner and Dance held in London on the evening of Friday, December 6th. To everyone's great regret, Lady Fraser was unable to be present as she had "Asian" flu.

Proposing the toast, "The Staff Association," Sir Ian said that St. Dunstan's was most fortunate in having a capable and devoted staff, whether at Headquarters, at South Audley Street, in the country or at our Brighton establishments. They not only conducted the affairs of our great society with efficiency but they also contributed to the warm family feeling which characterised it. It was true to say that St. Dunstaners and the staff together were like the members of one great family, giving each other mutual support, friendship and affection.

On behalf of St. Dunstaners as a whole he expressed warm thanks to the staff, past and present.

### "Servitas Servitum"

Now there was a feasting in the land, for it was the time of the end of one year and the start of a New Year, and as was the practice, there was eating and drinking and raising the knees to revere the Brown Mother. Now the peoples gathered did say one to the other "A Happy New Year," this being the greeting at such times, but in this year of 1957 there was indeed much warmth and much promise of the New Year's Happiness, for as is written on this tablet there was the reason.

For the Leader of the Dark-Eyed Ones had foregathered with his counsellors at the Great Hall of Albert, where there had been great parley and great resolutions, and supplications to the one of great power in the land, for they did take into the Minister a plea that those of the land whose services had gained them ill, did suffer from Lack of Purchase, and that which did go into the tyres of the transport.

Now the Minister did turn a sympathetic ear and did cry out to the leaders "Fear not, we have the needs of our warriors in constant care." Now this cry did raise up amongst the throng the cry of "Tell me the ancient story." But lo, this time did the word of the Minister speak great truth, and true to his vow, he did make the great declaration in the common house, of great speech but hitherto little action, "We will fill the purse and give unto them almost all which they do ask." For is not eighty and five nigh unto ninety?

And so hasten us to 1958, and our screeds shall be altered and the figures thereon grow more, and at the cages of the payers shall we not have to hold out unto them both our hands?

Now the utterances of the Men of Pension did cease. Instead did go forth a great cry. "Good old Sir Ian! Has he not done his stuff?" For was it not well known that for many years had he cried out in the House of Parley many times; and had he not called upon his fellow-leaders of all those units of those who had served, asking them to rally to his torch and cry again "We want ninety bob."

For it was written that the dripping waters weareth away the stone.

And even now at this time of feasting and merry-making, not only will the knee be lifted to the Brown Mother, but the voices shall rise and say in song "He is truly a jolly good fellow." JOHN A. MUDGE.

### From All Quarters

A. Morgan, of York, has recently completed twenty-five years' service with Messrs. Rowntree & Co., Ltd., and on Friday, November 22nd, he was the guest at a party given by the Directors, who have also marked the occasion by a presentation.

★ ★ ★

Successful entrants at the International Handicrafts Exhibition at Earls Court continue to come in. T. Till, of Lancaster, S. Russell, of Manchester, and Maureen Lees have all received Certificates of Merit. Maureen no fewer than nine—one for every entry she submitted.

★ ★ ★

C. Roach, of Darlington, took a first prize for his roses again this year.

★ ★ ★

J. Abbs, of Moored, Stibbard, won a first prize, seven seconds, a third, and several "highly commendeds" for his flowers and vegetables at the local Show.

★ ★ ★

When Messrs. T. Beckett, A. Foster, J. Humphrey, R. McConnell and A. W. Rutledge and Miss E. Wilson attended the Not Forgotten Association's Dinner at the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, on November 9th. A. W. Rutledge made a most excellent speech on behalf of his comrades present.

★ ★ ★

It was good to have a line from Clare A. White, of Victoria, Canada. He says the REVIEW is a welcome link with the Old Country.

★ ★ ★

When Docking and District British Legion paraded at Syderstone on November 10th, our St. Dunstan, Edgar West, took the salute outside his front door on the Syderstone main road. Also taking the salute was Major David Jamison, V.C., patron of the branch. The ceremony was noted by the *Easter Daily Press* which headed its article, "War-Blinded Man Takes Salute."

★ ★ ★

Captain and Mrs. Liakhoff send to all Guide Dog owners, past and present, and to those who have been in touch with them regarding future Guide Dogs, their best wishes for happiness and success this Christmas and during the coming year.

### Greetings from Brighton

Commandant, the Matrons and staff of the Brighton Homes, send greetings to St. Dunstaners everywhere.



## Tales of Ind

### The Lonely Well

During the Kaiser's War I was attached for a time to an Indian Cavalry regiment, a few miles from Secunderabad. Every morning, after parade, my charger would make for the stables at a gallop, passing on the way a well. The well was about eight feet in diameter and was surrounded by a stone wall about three feet high. Let into the wall was a plaque, on which was inscribed a tragic story.

It appeared that at the time when Victoria was at the commencement of her reign, a young cavalry officer, of a regiment then quartered there, would each morning jump his horse across the well. The feat became famous throughout the land. One day a General, accompanied by his pretty young daughter, visited the regiment and the General asked the officer to repeat his feat, but he explained that he was not well and begged to be excused. Possibly the appeals of the daughter, reinforced by her bright eyes, broke down the young man's objections, and he agreed to do the jump. The horse took the jump but failed to clear, and horse and rider crashed into the well. The horse was killed instantly but the rider was brought out alive, but died a few minutes later. Before he died he asked to be buried with his horse, and the two lie together, a few yards from the well, inseparable in life, united in death.

When the moon is full and the land is bathed in its white light, when all is clear as day, silent watchers hear the thud of horses' hooves, and a shadow of a horse and rider passes swiftly over the wall and disappears into the shadows of a clump of trees. The watchers whisper to each other "The sahib is riding again."

A sad but strange story, my masters.

DUNCAN MCALPIN.

### Births

BARRATT.—On November 24th, to the wife of F. Barrett, of East Ham, a daughter—Vivienne.

PRYOR.—On November 29th, to the wife of J. Pryor, of Maidstone, a daughter—Susan Wendy.

### Forty-one Years Married

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bocking, of Morecambe, on November 5th. Congratulations.

## J. R. Brown

John Dickey, of Boxmoor, writes:

"In the time he spent at Ovingdean, I think Jimmy Brown must have made himself about the best-liked man I came in contact with. His gift for absorbing the most intricate and difficult phases of the training was the envy of all his fellow trainees.

'To fellow St. Dunstaners Jimmy was in a class of his own; his sense of humour was beyond belief, and we could rely on him to keep things moving. Completely without a thought for himself, Jimmy could take knocks that would have finished most men and he always came up smiling. I can only say that he was a real St. Dunstaner and that 'they don't make 'em any finer.'"

## Family News

Janet Stafford, King's Langley, won a Silver Medal with Honours (and fifteen marks over) in the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art Silver Medal Examination. ★ ★ ★

Dr. Alison Boyd, Roedean, has obtained her Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

★ ★ ★

Margaret Read, Worlingworth, Suffolk, has just passed her State Registered Nurse examination, and so also has Janet Gray, St. Albans. ★ ★ ★

Josephine Cooney won second prize in the Worthing Musical Festival for solo piano playing.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Richard Meader, Whaplode, on November 30th, to Marina Marriott.

Neville Clamp, Bletchley, married Patricia Margaret West on July 18th last.

## Points from Letters

"I do not agree with Jack Radford's 'Do you remember?' I only wish I could meet a few old deaf pals to say it to and get a roar of laughter over old times."

G. FALLOWFIELD, *Southwick*.

### "Getting into a Groove"

You are not old when your hair turns grey,  
You are not old when your teeth decay,  
But you are old, and it's useless to weep  
When your mind makes a date that your  
body can't keep.

BEN HAMILTON, *Thetford*.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

**ARMISTEAD.**—To G. Armistead, of Shermanbury, near Horsham, who lost his wife on December 4th. She died after a long illness, and leaves a little girl, Doreen, who is nine.

**KERR.**—To J. W. Kerr, of Widnes, whose wife died very suddenly on Tuesday, November 26th.

**ROBINSON.**—To W. Robinson, of Welby, Grantham, and to his sister, Mrs. A. Rowe, of Burslem, whose father died on December 2nd, at the age of 89.

### “In Memory” (continued from page 8)

**Frederick Ashworth**, *East African Cycle Corps* (attached South African Railway Services)

**S. J. Schemper**, *S.A. Technical Services*

**Frederick H. Venables**, *African Explosive and Chemical Industries*

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of three of our South African St. Dunstaners.

F. Ashworth, of Johannesburg, served in the First World War with the East African Cycle Corps (attached to the South African Railway Services) and came to St. Dunstan's in 1946. His wife died in 1955 and he has since been cared for by his daughter. He was eighty-eight when he died on October 16th last. Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughter.

★ ★ ★  
S. J. Schemper, of Cape Town, died on September 9th last from a heart attack. He was fifty-two years of age.

Sam entered St. Dunstan's in the latter days of Tembani, and trained as a basket-maker, but he was forced to give this up for health reasons. He was then trained in sock-making on a hand machine and this occupation he carried on most successfully until his death.

He was a very keen radio “ham” and a very popular personality.

Tom Hart and Jim Ellis acted as pall-bearers at the funeral service at the Dutch Reformed Church in Observatory.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Schemper and her daughter, Martha.

★ ★ ★  
Frederick H. Venables, of North Rand, Transvaal, died on October 1st last, following an operation. He was fifty-one.

He was blinded as a result of an explosion in the African Explosive and Chemical Industries whilst working on munitions in January, 1943. He entered St. Dunstan's in March, 1948.

Although he had suffered for many years, he never allowed his added disability to interfere with his work as a telephone operator at the Modderfontein Estates Hospital.

He leaves a widow and two daughters, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

★ ★ ★  
**H. H. Ball**, *Australian Forces*

**Harold Stanley Fordyce**, *37th Australian Imperial Forces*

**L. J. Good**, *11th Light Horse*

**Harold John Morrison**, *24th Australian Imperial Forces*

**James O'Farrell**, *25th Australian Imperial Forces*

The deaths of these five Australian St. Dunstaners have recently been notified to us, and we record of them with deep regret.

H. H. Ball, of Castlemain, Victoria, died at the end of August, at the age of sixty-one, and our deep sympathy is offered to his widow.

★ ★ ★  
H. S. Fordyce, of Olinda, Victoria, died on August 17th. He was sixty-seven. He came to St. Dunstan's in England for training, in March, 1918, and he returned to Australia in April, 1910, to set up a poultry farm.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

★ ★ ★  
L. J. Good, of Townsville, North Queensland, who served in the First World War, has died at the age of sixty-three, but we have few details of him.

He, too, leaves a widow, and our deep sympathy goes out to her.

★ ★ ★  
H. J. Morrison, of Melbourne, died on July 24th last at the age of sixty-nine. He served with the Australian Imperial Forces from July, 1915, until May, 1919, when he came to St. Dunstan's and trained in mat-making, netting and boot-repairing. He returned to Australia in December, 1920, to carry on with these occupations.

He leaves no family.

★ ★ ★  
James O'Farrell, of Brisbane, Queensland, who also died in July last, was eighty-two, and he came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1918. He trained as a poultry-farmer and netting, and he returned to Australia in November, 1919, where he carried on these occupations.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is sent.



## “In Memory”

### Private George Anderson, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. Anderson, of Brighton. He was less than a month from his seventy-fourth birthday.

He came to us in 1921 and trained in mat-making and boot-repairing, but later gave up boots to continue with mats. Just before the last war he gave this up also and turned to wool rugs. His health had been deteriorating for some time. On November 19th he was admitted to Ovingdean and he died there on November 23rd.

He leaves a widow and daughter to whom our deep sympathy goes.

### Private Stanley Ash, *11th Royal Berkshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of S. Ash, of St. Thomas, Exeter, at the age of seventy.

He, too, trained as a mat-maker and boot-repairer when he joined us in 1919, but continued with mats alone until 1950, when ill-health forced him to give up work.

Following an operation, he was admitted to West House, where he died on November 26th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Ash and his family.

### James Robert Brown, *Merchant Navy*

We record with deep regret the death of J. R. Brown, of West Derby, Liverpool, at the early age of thirty-seven.

He had served in the Merchant Navy from his enlistment in 1940 until his discharge in September, 1941.

Jimmy came to us in February, 1952, and he trained for industry as a capstan operator, but ill-health forced him to give this work up. He then took a course in joinery and for about a year was able to work for the Stores.

To his widow and her three small children we send our deepest sympathy.

### Private Sidney St. Clair McLeod, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of S. S. McLeod, of Cricklade. He was seventy-five.

He trained as a boot-maker and mat-maker, but at the beginning of the last war continued only with boot-making. Two years later he was forced to give this up, too, and he had been in very poor health for a long time. His death took place on December 5th.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is extended to his children, and especially to Mrs. Giles, his daughter, with whom he made his home.

### Private Ivor J. Thomas Nicholas, *23rd Royal Fusiliers*

We record with deep regret the death of I. J. Thomas Nicholas, of Jersey, Channel Islands. He was sixty-three.

He came to St. Dunstan's in July, 1916, and trained as a masseur. He worked in various hospitals and eventually moved to Jersey, where he set up a private practice as a physiotherapist. Since 1945 his health had slowly deteriorated and his son began to take over his practice. He had been seriously ill for a long time and he died on December 1st.

To Mrs. Nicholas and her two sons our deep sympathy is offered.

### Sergeant Edwin Richmond, *West Yorkshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. Richmond, of Harrogate, which occurred very suddenly at his home on November 19th.

Enlisting in August, 1914, he was discharged from the Army in 1919, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until September, 1954, when the state of his health prevented him undertaking training of any kind.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and her son.

### Corporal Frederick William Walker, *11th Rifle Brigade*

We record with deep regret the death of F. W. Walker, of Gosport. He was sixty-seven.

He trained in 1917 as a netter, wool rug-maker and boot-repairer, but later did only netting and a few rugs. His health had been poor for some time, and in September of this year he was admitted to hospital; after treatment he was able to leave and return home, where his wife nursed him until his death on November 28th.

To Mrs. Walker and his family our deep sympathy goes.

### Private Ernest Lewis Woods, *8th K.O.R.L.*

It is with deep regret that we record the death on January 6th of E. L. Woods, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire. He was sixty.

He came to St. Dunstan's in May, 1917, and was first a poultry-keeper. He gave this up in 1925 to do netting and rugs. His health, however, had not been good and on December 4th he was admitted to hospital, where he died the following day.

Cremation was at Bristol, the ashes being brought back to Malmesbury Abbey, where a Memorial Service was held; later the ashes were buried in the Garden of Remembrance at the side of the Abbey.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Woods and her family.

[continued on Page 7]

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 455—VOLUME XLII

JANUARY, 1958

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## EDITORIAL

### Any News?

THE newspaper arrives in the morning. Any news? We miss the B.B.C. bulletin and ask, "Any news?" Millions of words, pouring out every day from the printing presses, through the B.B.C. news rooms, and over the air into countless homes. Always the demand is for news.

What is news?

It is usually thought that the word represents the points of the compass, N.E.W.S., but this is not so. It comes from the old English word, "niwe," meaning "new." (Compare the French word, "nouvelles").

We all have our own ideas as to what constitutes news. We listen to the headlines on the radio in the morning and then given the time and a reader, ask for the leaders, the murders, the political notes, the gossip or racing columns according to our preference. We now have a pretty good idea of the topics of the day and this gives us a good start. We are well-informed. We have something to talk about, to discuss and think about.

Yesterday's news is a different matter. The German writer and poet, Goethe, wrote, "If a man has not read the newspapers for some months and then reads them together, he will find out how much time is wasted upon this class of literature." The newspaper of Goethe's day must have been vastly different from our own favourite "daily," so that the comparison is not quite fair, but it still remains that nothing is as dead as yesterday's news and resurrecting it is sometimes a dreary business in a newspaper, however skilfully done. How vividly, on the other hand, can events which were "news" in the past be brought to life in a radio programme as witness the Captain Scott epic; the story of the Titanic; and the ever-popular Scrapbooks.

Perhaps even Goethe would have approved "this class of literature," for literature it is—a spoken composition.

It may be that in the not too distant future, we shall wait by some gigantic loudspeaker in the public square (it is always in a public square in the best space-stories and films) to receive the latest news flashes from the moon and the current satellites. But for the present we are quite content to switch on our own radio, lean back in our chair with the cat in our lap, and wait for our favourite announcer's friendly voice to say, "This is the B.B.C. Home Service. Here is the news."

P.S. Any news for the REVIEW?



## Bookings for Holidays at Ovingdean, Northgate House and Port Hall

St. Dunstaners are reminded that all applications for summer holidays at St. Dunstan's Homes this year should reach the Area Superintendent by the 15th March.

As usual priority will be given at Ovingdean to St. Dunstaners whose holidays are fixed by their employers, and their children will receive priority at Northgate House according to the length of the period which has elapsed since a holiday was last taken there.

The Homes will be closed for cleaning and staff vacations as follows:

Northgate House: From 15th June to 11th July, inclusive.

Port Hall: From 23rd August to 19th September, inclusive.

### Special Fortnights

St. Dunstaners who wish to spend a holiday at Ovingdean at the same time as other trainees of their year may do so during the following periods:

1921-1922: 13th to 22nd September.

1919-1920: 3rd to 17th May.

1917-1918: 7th to 21st June.

1915-1916: 28th June to 12th July.

C. D. WILLS

### Appointment

David Bell, M.A. (EDIN.), has been invited to serve on the Appeals Committee of the B.B.C. Advisory Council (Scotland). The appointment takes effect from January 1st, 1958, for three years.

★ ★ ★

As many St. Dunstaners will know, David was the subject of the B.B.C.'s television feature, "This is Your Life," on Monday, December 30th.

This programme always arouses a certain amount of controversy upon the question of good taste (the subject does not know that he is to appear on television, but is brought to the studio on some other pretext). The newspaper critics, however, were unanimous in praising David's bearing throughout it all. "Gay, serene and friendly," was how one writer put it.

### R.A.O.B.

Bro. Norman Cook was raised to the Fourth Degree on the 15th September, 1957, and was elected to President of the Thames Mouth Knights Chapter for the year 1958.

## St. Dunstaner Honoured by Legion

Honour was done to a St. Dunstaner on Tuesday night, January 7th, in the British Legion Club, Albion Street, Leeds, when Mr. Ernest Russell, who has been a member of the West Riding County Committee over a period of ten years, and a member of the Leeds Group Committee, was presented with a British Legion Gold Badge and a Life Membership Certificate of the British Legion, and a West Riding County Certificate of Appreciation for the work Mr. Russell has done on behalf of the British Legion in the West Riding County. The Gold Badge was presented to him by Colonel A. Butler, President of the Leeds Group, whilst the Certificate of Life Membership and the County Certificate of Appreciation were handed over by Mr. A. H. Markham, the County Chairman.

Warm tributes were paid by Col. Butler and Mr. Markham to the interest taken by Mr. Russell in the work of the British Legion, not only on the County Committee and the Group Committee, but among the branches, particularly in the field of indoor sports, he at the time of the presentation still being Chairman of the Leeds Group Indoor Games Committee. Mr. Markham, in his address to the gathering, said that Ernest Russell had always been one who was prepared to give considered advice on all matters relating to the work of the County Committee and, while holding strong views of his own, had always been prepared to accept the views of his many friends and colleagues on the Committees with which he served.

In the course of his remarks, Col. Butler paid a very great tribute to Mrs. Russell, to whom he presented on behalf of the Leeds Group a silver rose bowl as a mark of appreciation for the part she had taken in her husband's work in the British Legion. Col. Butler went on to say that all present appreciated that much of what Ernest has been able to accomplish was in a very large measure due to the whole-hearted support given to him by his wife, and it was to her that their warmest thanks were due for her many sacrifices on their behalf.

C. W. MASON (Capt.)

*County Organising Secretary*

## London Club Notes

### The Christmas Party

On Thursday evening, December 21st, at 191 Marylebone Road, Club members and their ladies gathered to enjoy our Christmas party. At about 5.30, members were arriving in two's and three's, and by 7 o'clock the party was in full swing. The rooms were bedecked with Christmassy tinsel and greenery, all of which added to the gaiety of the scene.

We were very sorry there were so many absentees among members owing to illness, and I sincerely trust they are quite fit again now. We were pleased to number among our guests our very good friends, Mr. W. Askew, C.B.E., and Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lloyds.

There were lots of good things to eat and we are most grateful to Mrs. Willis and her many lady helpers for putting on such a good show.

We were right royally entertained by some first-rate artists from the B.B.C., and we are indebted to our very good friend, Mr. Jacques Brown, who brought along the George Mitchell Choir, Tollefson, the celebrated accordionist, and the one and only John Blythe. We were given a first-class treat by these excellent artists.

In addition to all the good things we had to eat and drink, and the enjoyment of the artists, each lady who accompanied the Club member, and the members themselves, received a gift from the hands of Daddy Christmas Bob Willis.

Reluctantly at about ten o'clock, most of us had to make trek for home.

To sum up, a very excellent evening; our thanks are due to all those who contributed to the success of the evening, not forgetting our wives.

S. WEBSTER

**Bridge.**—In the London Business Houses League our team has won five of their six matches, drawing the sixth. It is interesting to note that in the drawn game, our team were 16 match points down in the first half but recovered to equalise in the second half. They still have four more to play.

### Eighty-Nine Years Old

Is S. W. Wain, of Derby, our oldest St. Dunstaner? He was 89 on January 5th.

## St. Dunstan's Six Mile Handicap Walk and

### Match v. Metropolitan Police and Queens Park Harriers

Regent's Park, Saturday, 14th December, 1957

Competitor	Club	Time	H'cp. H'cp. Pos. All. Time in H'cp.		
1. J. Symes ...	Q.P.H.	51-55	—	—	—
2. G. McAtee ...	M.P.	52-16	—	—	—
3. J. Ridley ...	Q.P.H.	52-32	—	—	—
4. J. Taylor ...	Q.P.H.	53-08	—	—	—
5. B. Shaw ...	Q.P.H.	53-56	—	—	—
6. J. James ...	M.P.	54-44	—	—	—
7. J. Robinson	Q.P.H.	55-24	—	—	—
8. W. Miller ...	St. D's	55-48	Scr.	55-48	2
9. J. Holding ...	M.P.	56-05	—	—	—
10. J. Clifton ...	M.P.	56-37	—	—	—
11. C. Williamson	St. D's	57-12	2-00	55-12	1
12. W. Morris ...	Q.P.H.	58-40	—	—	—
13. S. Cameron ...	Q.P.H.	59-37	—	—	—
14. C. Saunders...	M.P.	59-52	—	—	—
15. T. Melhuish...	M.P.	60-07	—	—	—
16. A. Brown ...	St. D's	61-50	2-15	59-35	5
17. J. Ivens ...	M.P.	62-16	—	—	—
18. L. Dennis ...	St. D's	62-32	3-00	59-32	4
19. C. Stafford ...	St. D's	62-48	5-15	57-33	3
20. T. Gaygan ...	St. D's	65-02	3-45	61-17	6

#### Match Result :

Queens Park Harriers	32 points	1st
Metropolitan Police	56 points	2nd
St. Dunstan's	90 points	3rd

## St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Handicap Walk and

### Match v. Metropolitan Police

Regent's Park, Saturday, 4th January, 1958

Competitor	Club	Time	Pos. H'cp. H'cp. in All. Time H'cp.		
1. C. Fogg ...	M.P. A	58-59	—	—	—
2. J. Edwards ...	M.P. A	60-31	—	—	—
3. E. Levitt ...	M.P. B	61-08	—	—	—
4. W. Bowyer...	M.P. B	63-31	—	—	—
5. J. Holding ...	M.P. B	63-40	—	—	—
6. F. James ...	M.P. B	63-47	—	—	—
7. P. Castle ...	M.P. A	64-02	—	—	—
8. P. Ansell ...	M.P. B	64-09	—	—	—
9. C. Williamson	St. D's	64-12	2-15	61-57	2
10. G. Redman ...	M.P. A	64-15	—	—	—
11. W. Miller ...	St. D's	65-03	Scr.	65-03	5
12. J. Clifton ...	M.P. B	65-23	—	—	—
13. G. Hewitt ...	St. D's	65-31	—	—	—
14. D. Fothering-					
ham ...	M.P. A	66-50	—	—	—
15. A. Brown ...	St. D's	67-22	3-00	64-22	4
16. — Burling ...	M.P. B	68-58	—	—	—
17. C. Stafford ...	St. D's	69-18	8-15	61-03	1
18. J. Ivens ...	M.P. A	70-33	—	—	—

#### Result of Match :

Metropolitan Police "B"	26 points
Metropolitan Police "A"	34 points
St. Dunstan's	65 points



## Talking Book Library A December Cross-section

Owing to a New Year's resolution the awkward alliterations that used to head this column have gone by the board. I summarise in 1958 half a dozen books that were actually released in December, 1957.

"A Pot of Basil," by Jane Gillespie, reader Lionel Gamlin, is an intimate story of a mother and three young daughters. A pleasant study of a mother's joys and worries over one daughter engaged, one almost leaving school, and the youngest at the mistress hero-worshipping age. The main thread recounts the allaying of the suspicions of the middle girl for the fiancé of her sister. The reconciliation of fiancé and middle sister plus the uncertainties of an engagement and the endearing qualities of the youngest girl make a charming book. *Cat. No. 70.*

"A Portrait of Canterbury," by Richard Church, reader Arthur Bush, is a long picture of many centuries. A fascinating study of a fine old town which, I regret to say, coming from another part of the country myself, I found a trifle too long. However, that is a purely personal point of view and the book does very adequately what it sets out to do. *Cat. No. 986.*

"Montgomery," by Alan Moorehead, reader Adrian Waller, is a short and most interesting biography of a Field Marshal whose name conjures up immediately North Africa and the 8th Army. It is almost surprising to discover he's a human being like you and me. *Cat. No. 085.*

"Noble in Reason," by Phyllis Bentley, reader Laidman Browne, purports to be the autobiography of a playwright whose childhood in the West Riding of Yorkshire seems to have been comprehensively and detailedly miserable. Eventually success and love at the second attempt come to him in London. *Cat. No. 983.*

"Into an Hour-glass," by Nancy Price, reader Nancy Price, is the auto biography of a leading actress and, now, a bird sanctuarist in Sussex. There are many sparkling anecdotes and events in Miss Price's brilliant career and, unlike many of her sex, she can oddly enough read her own writing. *Cat. No. 982.*

"Pavilion of Women," by Pearl S. Buck, reader Jean Metcalfe, is the study of a Chinese family in which mum at 40 tells dad he must have a concubine. That

makes a praiseworthy start, then the story of children and grandchildren splits into devious threads, interesting but too numerous to attempt here. *Cat. No. 980.*

"NELSON"

## Personal

I wish to thank all my St. Dunstaner friends for the many attractive cards conveying Christmas greetings which I have received and regret that I have been unable, this year, to acknowledge each one personally. I wish all St. Dunstaners a happy and prosperous New Year. C. D. WILLS

★ ★ ★

May I, through the REVIEW, acknowledge the charming Christmas cards I have received and also the many letters of appreciation and good wishes for my retirement. There are so many that I am sorry I am unable to answer each one personally. LESLIE BANKS

★ ★ ★

I have received so many cards and kind remembrances from St. Dunstaners that I would, if possible, like to say "thank you" through the medium of the REVIEW. I have deeply appreciated being remembered, having retired, and I do wish them a grand New Year. They will understand I could not reply to all, much as I would like to do so. MARIE K. WILSON

★ ★ ★

Good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to the boys of Stalag 9 A/H, Kloster Haina, came again this year from our old friend T. J. Rowe (Taffy), R.A.M.C.

## Miss Outing

I have to-day been given by Tommy Gaygan the wonderful cheque from my St. Dunstaner friends of Southern Area, for which I send you all my most sincere thanks.

I appreciate more than I can say the good wishes and kind feelings which prompted your giving, and although I cannot express what I feel, I am sure that you will all understand. I have to thank you all, too, for the great kindness which has been shown to me throughout my time at St. Dunstan's, which has contributed greatly to my happiness and enjoyment of the work.

Again many thanks and all best wishes for the future. J. OUTING

## St. Dunstan's Camp Week

H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent

I have just received a letter from Lee inviting fifty St. Dunstaners to a week's holiday visit. Leave period is late this year and the probable date is Friday, August 22nd, to Saturday, August 30th. I give you this advanced information to help you make holiday plans. The date will be confirmed by January 22nd, so if you want to know before the February REVIEW appears, write to me.

Mrs. SPURWAY,

The Vicarage,

Holmwood,

Tel.: Dorking 73191.

Dorking.

## A Family of Fishermen

In his Christmas mail, Sir Ian received a letter from W. P. Brown, of North Otago, New Zealand, who was blinded in North Africa in 1943. This is what he said:

"I keep hens and, with the help of my wife, a small market garden. My main hobby is fishing and my wife and our two boys are also keen on the fishing. The enclosed snapshot is of our two boys with their respective bags of rainbow trout caught in Lake Waitaki. Owen is nine years old and he has one trout three and a quarter pounds and one at one pound. Ashley is six years old and his eight trout, which is the daily limit, ranged from one pound seven ounces down to one and a quarter pounds, with a total weight of 13 pounds. My wife and I caught four each the same day.

"I make moccasins and leather bags and enjoy listening to my talking book machine."

## The Allied Circle

The Allied Circle is a Club for the promotion of international goodwill. Fifty different nationalities are represented among its members. Interesting lectures on varied subjects are given weekly at the Club's headquarters in Green Street, London, W.1.

Colonel Crossfield who is President of the Club, has extended, through Sir Ian Fraser, a cordial invitation to St. Dunstaners in the London Area to become Honorary Members.

## Hogmanay Story

The scene is the Lounge, Ovingdean, just after lunch on December 31st, 1957:

Bill: "Hallo, Jock! What are you going to do this afternoon?"

Jock: "I'm going to try to get a thir-r-st on for to-night!"

J. WALCH

## From All Quarters

S. Allott, of Hornsea, was pictured in the *Yorkshire Times* on December 7th, receiving his prizes for his racing pigeons. He is a member of Hornsea and East Riding Homing Society.

★ ★ ★

Another pigeon fancier is George Shed, of Burgess Hill; he is a member of the Mid-Sussex Pigeon Flying Club. Last season he won four first prizes, four seconds, a third and a fourth for his carrier pigeons, and a silver cup in a race for young birds, Guernsey to Burgess Hill, in September.

★ ★ ★

A prizewinner in another field is S. Purvis, of Seghill, whose leeks are famous locally. This year he did not do quite so well as usual at the shows (his plants were attacked by blight) but he still took a number of minor prizes including a third, an eighth and a twelfth, which brought him a clock, a kitchen cabinet, a tea-set and a carpet.

★ ★ ★

Reg. Beales, our physiotherapist, did grand work in preparing the Hereford F.C. players for their gallant efforts in the F.A. Cup.

★ ★ ★

At the Not Forgotten Association Dinner in Belfast on November 9th, it was J. Humphrey who made a most excellent speech on behalf of those present, and not A. W. Rutledge, as reported last month.

★ ★ ★

T. Rosewarne, of Denton, Manchester, is Domino Champion of Denton and District British Legion.

## Annual Award Goes to St. Dunstaner

At its Seventh General Assembly in West Berlin, the World Veterans' Federation has awarded Sir Clutha Mackenzie its Fifth Annual Rehabilitation Award for Outstanding Services to the World's Disabled. This Award carries a grant of \$1000 a year to be used as a Travelling Fellowship for rehabilitation subjects for each of the three years following the granting of the Award.



## Round the Clubs

### Brighton

In spite of the most inclement weather, twenty-four St. Dunstaners, with escorts, attended the Annual General Meeting of the Brighton Club. After the Chairman's Report, the election of a Committee for the ensuing year was next on the agenda. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the retiring Committee be re-elected *en bloc*. In the course of the meeting it was likewise proposed as above that the Darts Tournament be played in two sections, "T.B." and "S.S.," henceforth to be known as "A" and "B" Sections.

It was also agreed to run a Fives and Threes Domino Tournament under the Sir Arthur Pearson games.

Will all those wishing to participate in the darts, cribbage, or fives and threes games, let me know as soon as possible as the first round will be played off at 7.15 p.m. on the second Thursday in February.

On behalf of members of the Club, Mr. Walch presented Mr. Rhodes, Chairman, with a beautiful cigarette box. Matron Ramshaw kindly presented the prizes to the 1957 winners of the Sir Arthur Pearson prizes.

FRANK A. RHODES

### Cardiff

On January 4th, at the Alexandra Hotel, Cardiff, St. Dunstan's Club held their annual Christmas Dinner. Members, with their wives and escorts, formed a real family gathering. After dinner dancing and games were enjoyed.

J. Caple brought along two entertainers who were much appreciated.

At 10.45 p.m., which came far too soon, the strains of Auld Lang Syne brought our party to a close.

The Club would welcome any St. Dunstaners who would like to join us. Meetings are held on the first Saturday in each month at 3 p.m., at the British Legion, Woman Street, Cardiff.

ARTHUR LANE

### Manchester

The Club held its Christmas party on Wednesday evening, the 11th December, at the Wellington Hotel, Nicholas Croft, Manchester. The Manageress of the hotel very kindly allowed us the use of a private room where a full Christmas dinner,

beautifully prepared, was efficiently served to the assembled party.

The attendance fell short of the number anticipated, owing to illness and previous engagements of some members, but nevertheless there was a good muster of members and their wives.

Our principal guest was Miss B. Vaughan Davies, whom so many St. Dunstaners will happily remember as Matron of the Blackpool Home up to the time it was closed down. Our friend, Mr. Charlie Clarke, son of "Nobby," was also present and he provided the music. A Christmas message and a donation were submitted from our friend and late Secretary, Mrs. E. M. Dunphy, now living in South Devon.

Useful presents for all were provided by means of a "lucky dip," whilst other presents went to holders of lucky numbers.

This was a very pleasant party, held in comfortable and convenient premises.

J. SHAW.

### Liverpool

On Saturday, December 7th, the Club held its annual Christmas party in Sefton Hall, Hardman Street, which was attended by about sixty members and friends. Miss Vaughan Davies, of our late Blackpool Home, was the principal guest. Unfortunately, Miss Everett was suddenly called away to the bedside of her father a few days before the party and was unable to be present. She sent her best wishes for its success. Another guest, Miss Madison (so helpful when you are shopping in Lewis's) was also with us. Our good friends from the Railway Hotel, Plessington, arrived in their coach in good time, led by our St. Dunstaner, Bob Britten.

After a very good repast, the toast to Her Majesty was proposed by the President, Captain Halloway. Crackers were pulled and paper hats were soon in evidence and the party spirit was soon in full swing.

After the usual speeches, a very fine concert was presented by our old friend, George Lamb, and his party; at the conclusion of the concert, cups and cash prizes were presented to the winners of the various competitions, dominoes, darts, etc., held during the year; a nice Christmas box for the lucky ones. This was most charmingly done by Miss Davies.

The floor being cleared, the rest of the evening belonged to the dancers, who were very ably catered for by Mr. A. Owens.

The party broke up at 10.30 p.m. and everybody voted that they had enjoyed a very pleasant and jolly evening.

Our thanks are due to the ladies who provided and served the late night refreshments; also the members who decorated the Hall.

The Liverpool Club wishes all St. Dunstaners on Merseyside "A very Happy and Prosperous New Year."

JOS. BLAKELY,  
*Chairman.*

### Family News

Dorothy Cole, Gloucester, has won the senior musical prize at her school.

Hazel Morgan, who has lost a good deal of time at school, has only been at her new one for four weeks, but came fifteenth in a class of 41. (She was sixth in English, tenth in maths.).

Helen Embleton, Trimdon Village, Co. Durham, is head girl, school captain and house captain for all games. She is 17 and is at Wellfield A. J. Dawson Grammar School.

Sheila Read, New Haw, has passed in Grade I, "Ballet in Education."

Jane Sutton, Crewe, has passed her intermediate music examination with merit. She now has six certificates, and when she has four more she will have her cap and gown.

### Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Betty Francis, of Leeds, married Mr. Raymond Rodgers on December 7th.

### Great Grandfather

P. Lynch, of Brandon, Co. Durham.

### Grandfathers

P. Long, of Waterfall, near Cork City; J. Kelleher, of Cork (the first grandson); C. H. Frankish, of Carlisle; D. C. E. Cole, of Gloucester.

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Loram, of Brixham, January 20th. Congratulations.

### Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. P. Garrity, of Patcham, January 1st. Many congratulations.

## Pearson House

### A First-Class "Xmastication"

The festive season for Pearson House (recently West House) residents began with the Grocers' Dinner-dance at the Grand Hotel on December 7th. From that date everything went along in hectic fashion. Came the 23rd December, when the Whist Drive was arranged for the escorts and Good Companions—an enjoyable afternoon. On Christmas Eve there were carols by the St. Matthew's Church Choir. Following a sumptuous breakfast on Christmas Day, Commandant and Matron Avison distributed the presents in the lounge, where refreshments (kindly provided by the Grocers' Federation), were served. And so on to dinner. In the Dining Hall the glittering cutlery and glassware, the white napery, with the piles of crackers, and the gay, cleverly done wall decorations made a pleasing scene. During the dinner, Matron read the many telegrams of good wishes. After this sumptuous repast, the men retired to the lounge where, with our old friend, Mr. Welfare, at the piano, the old well-known choruses were sung and "Tiny" Northcott played a leading part. After tea there was dancing, at the end of which there was a play reading of the comedy, "The Witching Hour," in which Matron starred as "Joy." After this singing was resumed. Bob Riddell, for his rendering of "A Gordon for Me," was a highlight. After Tiny, Moeller, and Mr. Jones had failed to lift Miss Heap off the ground with one finger, a most enjoyable Christmas Day was brought to a close.

On Boxing morning came the drive around Sussex to Ringmer, where The Anchor was weighed, and the crown blown from the top of the refreshment. Here the songsters came on again into the lime-light and provided a jolly good show.

On Boxing Day night a company attended the Theatre Royal and on Friday night the usual mass attack was made on the Hippodrome for the pantomime, "Jack and the Beanstalk"—a splendid show.

The Christmas festivities ended on New Year's Eve with a rum punch—Hail and Farewell.

Well done, all the Staff—*Mighty thanks.*

"BROOKIE"



## “In Memory”

### Private Arthur Benbow, *11th East Lancashire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of A. Benbow, of Trawden, near Colne, Lancs. Enlisting in June, 1915, he was discharged in February, 1919; he had received mustard gas injuries but it was only as recently as August, 1957, that he came to us and he was then a very sick man and therefore unable even to take a hobby.

He died in hospital on December 21st.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private Lawrence Hardy, *King's Own Scottish Borderers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of L. Hardy, of Peacchaven. He was sixty-four.

He served with his regiment from October, 1915, and was wounded in Belgium in 1917. He came to St. Dunstan's the following year and trained as a basket-maker. He carried on his craft for some years then turned to wool rugs and he was working at these until a short time ago. His health, however, had been poor for some time. He was admitted to hospital on November 14th, and he died there on December 15th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his widow and step-children.

### Private Ivan Henry Poole, *10th Hampshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of I. H. Poole, of Redditch, Worcestershire.

Enlisting in June, 1914, he was wounded in Salonica in September, 1918, and he came to St. Dunstan's upon his discharge from the Army in February, 1919. He trained as a basket-maker and for twenty years he followed his craft, apart from a break of a year when he did a war job on munitions. Ill-health forced him to give this up and he returned to basket-making and it was on this work that he was engaged right up to the time of his sudden death at his home on December 17th.

He was twice married and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Poole and the three children of his first marriage, and to his step-daughter who also lived at home with them.

### Sergeant John Deegan, *2nd Lincolnshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Deegan, of Brixton, S.W.9. He was fifty-nine.

He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1918, and trained as a telephonist and he worked at his board up to the time of his death. In the 1920's and early 1930's he was one of our keenest sportsmen. Although he had suffered a little with chest trouble, he had not been ill otherwise and his death took place suddenly on January 15th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Deegan and her family.

### Private Gordon Nancarrow, *1st Durham County Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of G. Nancarrow, of Newquay, at the age of sixty-three.

He came to St. Dunstan's in December, 1917, where he trained as a mat-maker. Later he changed to rug-making and this craft he carried on until November, 1957, when he was admitted to hospital. He was discharged from the hospital but became ill again. His health gradually deteriorated and he died in hospital on January 11th.

He leaves a widow and grown-up family, and our deep sympathy goes out to them, and to his sisters.

## Births

KEMP.—On December 16th, to the widow of the late S. Kemp, of Troon, nr. Camborne, Cornwall, a son—Christopher Noel.

WHYTE.—On December 21st, to the wife of F. Whyte, of Gainsborough, a daughter.

## Marriages

ALTON.—On December 21st, John Alton, of Victoria, Australia.

BETTANEY.—On January 1st, A. E. Bettaney, of Stoke-on-Trent, to Miss L. Ogden.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:—

GOLDING.—To H. Golding, of Thornton Heath, whose wife died on January 8th.

GREEN.—To E. A. Green, of Whittlesey, nr. Peterborough, whose mother has died at the age of 83.

OVERILL.—To A. J. Overill, of Bexleyheath, whose wife died on December 23rd, after a long illness.

ROUGHLEY.—To J. Roughley, of Weybridge, Surrey, who lost his wife on January 12th.

SEYMOUR.—To R. Seymour, of Warrington, whose wife died on December 7th. She had been ill for a long time.

STUBBS.—To J. Stubbs, of Liverpool, whose wife died on December 16th.

WALKER.—To H. Walker, of Peterborough, whose wife died at Ampthill, Bedfordshire, on January 5th.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 456—VOLUME XLII

FEBRUARY, 1958

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**I**F a young man or boy, who respected your opinion, asked your advice about joining the Army, what would you say?

I am asking my readers this question because I have recently been asked to use such influence as I possess to help the Regular Army with its recruiting. The only way I can do this is by speaking well of the Armed Forces, or of the unit in which I played my small part long ago, but it occurred to me to report this matter to St. Dunstaners, for we are all ex-servicemen and I do not doubt that the question whether the young people for whom we are personally responsible should join the services, is one which we often think about and discuss.

I think we may say that all political parties are agreed that it would be a good thing if we could bring compulsory military service to an end and replace our present forces by a well-paid, full-time Army, Navy and Air Force, but we can only get rid of the militia if we can, in the next two or three years, fill the gaps in the Regular Forces, and that leads at once to recruiting. Some may ask the question, "Are you recruiting for war?" The answer is, "Certainly not, we are recruiting for the maintainance of peace and justice in the world."

There are some young people who do not welcome the idea of life in an office or a factory, but say they want an open-air life. There are others who are adventurous and want to travel and see the world, and enjoy friendship and comradeship of other men of their own age. To them, the life of the Army, as it will be in the next few years, may be a great attraction. When I joined the Army, the private soldier got a bob a day and all found of course, though on a pretty meagre scale. Now the pay of a trained regular private is about £7 0s. 0d. a week and the food, uniform, amenities and facilities for sport and education are tremendously advanced.

It may well be said that life in the new Regular Army is a healthy and interesting one and that there are great opportunities for promotion. The pay is not so good as that which could easily be earned in some factory but there is a very good prospect for a young fellow of becoming a sergeant in eight to nine years, when his basic pay is in the neighbourhood of £11 0s. 0d. a week, and taken in conjunction with allowances, board and lodging, and the rest of it, he is probably as well off as the average young man of his age. As regards prospects, the sky is the limit for the really able boy because there are many more opportunities for commission than there were before and, indeed, the Army searches out young leaders with a view to training and promoting them, and when service is over there is a pension at a relatively early age when there is still time to get another job. For example, a Warrant



Officer, Class 2, with twenty-two years' service would retire with a terminal gratuity of £300 and a pension of £3 3s. 4d. a week, and he would be only forty or forty-two.

I, for one, certainly hope that the Army will succeed in its task, because Britain must make her contribution towards maintenance of peace in the world, and a well-paid, regular whole-time Army is, without doubt, better than the present system.

As to the young men themselves, I think if they have no particular calling, bent, business or profession to follow or inherit, there is a good and honourable and interesting and varied life, and I would certainly commend it to a suitable young man who asked my advice.

IAN FRASER.

## Presentation Funds for

### Mr. Banks and Miss Morris

Mr. Lloyds tells us that subscriptions to the presentation funds from St. Dunstaners for Mr. Banks and Miss Morris have come in well and that he is consulting them as to what gifts they would like to have. He has arranged for the presentation to take place on Saturday, the 29th March, at the Windsor Reunion, which is attended by St. Dunstaners from a wide area.

## The Windsor Reunion

Mr. George Eustace is organising a coach from Kingston to the Windsor Reunion on March 29th. Will all those who want to join it please contact him at 170 Tolworth Rise, Tolworth, Surrey. Tel. Derwent 6471.

Mr. Ted Dudley will also run a coach from Derby Road, West Croydon, and those interested should contact him at 74 Waddon Court Road, Croydon, or telephone HOP 5231 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

## The Lee-on-Solent Camp

Since the notice in last month's REVIEW, I have received a change of date from H.M.S. Daedalus. Camp will now be held from *Friday, August 15th, to Saturday, August 23rd* and not the 22nd-30th. Camp fee, £1, payable in camp. Fares over £1 refunded.

Entries please to me as soon as possible and in any case not later than April 16th.

AVIS SPURWAY,

Telephone :

Dorking 73191.

The Vicarage,

Holmwood, Dorking.

## Personal

Miss Ramshaw's thanks for the many Christmas cards she received missed the last REVIEW. Matron would like to thank everyone for their kind thought of her at Christmas. She appreciated the cards so much.

## From All Quarters

The second subject of the *Croydon Times* weekly series, "Familiar Faces," was Leslie Dennis. A drawing of Leslie, under the heading, "He aims to be a Centurion," was followed by an excellent article on his work and interests, particularly road-walking. ★ ★ ★

Also well-pictured in the press has been Les. Copeland, of Uxbridge. When Mr. Frank Beswick, M.P. for Uxbridge, toured the factory of J. R. Parsons, Ltd., he met Leslie who had started work there two months before. The local paper showed Mr. Beswick watching our St. Dunstaner at his screw-testing machine. ★ ★ ★

J. G. Healy, of Blackpool, is a member of the Executive Committee, the Appeals Sub-Committee, and the "Home" Sub-Committee of Blackpool and Fylde Society for the Blind. ★ ★ ★

In a recent letter to our Appeals Department, the secretary of a well-known firm of woollen manufacturers wrote: "We have every reason to be grateful to you for the training which you have given to blind ex-servicemen and in particular to our own telephone operator, Mr. Jim Laffey, who has been with us for many years and who has given us excellent service." ★ ★ ★

W. T. Scott ("Scotty"), completes this month twenty-five years as physiotherapist at Streatham Home and Hospital for Incurables.

## Appointment

Major Ronald Bridges, who for the past ten years has been Blind Welfare Officer for the Malayan Government, has been appointed Director of the new Far East Regional Office of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind. The Office will open in Manila next month.

## London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club was held in the Club on Thursday, 16th January, 1958, with Mr. A. D. Lloyds in the Chair. The attendance was smaller than usual, mainly due to the inclement weather and to illness.

The following were elected on the Committee: Messrs. S. Webster (*Chairman*), G. Brown, W. Bishop, W. Miller, W. Harding.

*Bridge*.—The Harrogate Week will be held this year from September 13th—20th. Arrangements have been made for our party to be accommodated again at the Dirlton Hotel, Ripon Road, and the terms per day will be 27s. 6d. inclusive.

As we must make our final reservations at the hotel, will all members who would like to join the party send in their names to Mr. Willis as soon as possible.

## Operation Completed

In the House of Commons on February 3rd, Sir Ian Fraser asked the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance how the payment of the increased war pensions and retirement pensions was progressing.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter replied, "I am glad to say that the job has been virtually completed. Practically all war pensioners and retirement pensioners are now receiving the increased amounts due to them."

Sir Ian asked how the task compared with that of former occasions. Was it a record?

Mr. Boyd Carpenter: "It has been done more quickly than on any previous occasion."

## Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. A. Laird, of St. Helens, January 1st. Congratulations.

## Miss Newall

The address of Miss M. A. Newall (Northern Welfare Visitor) is now: "Oaklands," Heath Lane, Willaston, Wirral, Cheshire (Tele. Willaston 2132).

## Seaside Holiday

*Double Room*, hot and cold water, bed and breakfast. Moderate terms. Please apply as soon as possible. Mrs. Paddy Doyle, "Harlington," Great Preston Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

## Canadian Letter

We have had news from Don Tacon, lately of St. Dunstan's staff, who emigrated to Canada last June. Mr. Tacon says he misses St. Dunstan's "boys" more than he cares to think about but he sends a most interesting account of his experiences since arriving in Canada; some extracts appear below:

★ ★ ★

"I came to Fort William via New York and Toronto, taking 27 hours (20 hours flying time). Fort William is rather cut off from the rest of the world as the nearest large city is Winnipeg (350 miles away) with Toronto 1,000 miles to the east. This is certainly a young man's country especially if you have a trade or profession. As I have neither I had to have a good look round for a job. However, I got cracking and landed one selling "Freezers" for storing food. Then I went after a better one with a large store selling pianos, electric organs, etc. It is surprising how soon you learn and to hear me play "Silent Night" on the Hammond Organ is quite a miss on your part. This job will see me through the winter.

"Bob and Dave started school; Mike had the toughest deal. He started work with the Ontario Department of Highways three days after he arrived and in five days was out in the bush and has worked there off and on ever since, in ice, snow, and 20 degrees below zero. He is a trainee surveyor.

"We spent a great deal of cash on winter clothes which are rather expensive . . . we have come to regard any cold above zero as warm.

"We are hoping to go west in the summer for a holiday and look round the Vancouver area . . . the climate there is much warmer and of course it is on the sea, and we have all missed our seaside holiday last year. There are people here who have never seen the sea.

"Life here is just impossible without a car and we bought a small one, but it was not a very good buy as with all your heavy coats, etc., you have difficulty in squeezing in. Later I traded it for a large Dodge. The food we find reasonable in price and excellent in quality . . . we miss a lot of things such as decent radio and TV programmes—here they are all advertising.

"However, I think that the boys will do well out here and Pa and Ma will get by."



## Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

It was nice to have an editorial from you, but did it not show that the *policy* of the REVIEW needs changing? If it makes news the main aim, the result is that it reads like a parish magazine. St. Dunstaners live all over the British Isles and the fact that someone in one town has won a prize at something or other is of interest only to the few who happen to know that man, it is of no interest to those living in other towns. Even if the item deals with the man's personal affairs; well, the things that can happen now are so trivial they aren't worth recording.

What I am getting at is this: There will always be a shortage of news about the doings of blind men, that is natural and inevitable. Why not concentrate instead on what they are thinking about? We don't all fritter our time away with dominoes or cards. But from the pages of the REVIEW one would get the impression that these things were of great interest to everyone. I remember that a couple of months ago Sir Ian complained in the REVIEW that many St. Dunstaners never visited Ovingdean or joined in the annual reunions. No wonder. Just as the generation of the last war had different interests, and a better education, than the generation of the 14-18 war, so their way of thinking, and the things they think about, are very different too. But does the REVIEW cater for them? I have seen few signs of it.

Is this because most ex-servicemen's organisations are still dominated by those whose minds are set in a mould of a generation ago? And a "Service" mould at that. The last war was won, not by professional servicemen, but by "back-room" boys who used their brains. No-one who knows the history of the last war will deny that. And now it is 1958. Come on, let's see if the REVIEW knows that, too.

Gateshead.

JOHN NOGAN.

DEAR EDITOR,

I am organising a second exhibition in the late autumn of 1958 and am already working on how to raise the overhead expenses. One plan is to cover coat hangers and if any of my St. Dunstan's friends wives or lady contacts want to find "a good home" for scraps of silk, cretonne,

etc., which I could use for the covering, I would be most grateful. I would also like to contact the two St. Dunstaners who told me they grew everlasting flowers (one lived in the Saltdean area). One also grew lavender. I would like to place an order for the flowers, to fill some small posy baskets, and lavender for sachets to fasten to the coat hangers.

If any of the womenfolk living in the Wirral or Merseyside area would volunteer to help at the Exhibition, even if only for one afternoon or early evening, it would be a godsend.

I am making my plans known quite early so that my friends will not spend all their money other than at my exhibition.

Now may I comment on your editorial last month. In common with many other St. Dunstaners I don't agree with your view that "old" news is unwanted; news is always wanted, whether it be old or new.

Yours sincerely,

23 Ben Nevis Road,  
Birkenhead.

MAUREEN LEES.

## The Voice of Time

*I was here 'ere man was born,  
'Ere night and morn' made the dawn,  
Or Ajax bent beneath the strain  
Of bearing Hera's sprawling frame.  
For I'm the handmaid of creation,  
All things made with me must start  
Yet I'm the one that sows destruction  
Since mine's the sign that says depart.  
Silent as the wheels of fate  
I journey on without a break,  
Cashing the bills which Nature receipts  
Or calling them in as Nature decrees.  
Though always passing I still remain  
For naught has power to me detain,  
That would stop my pulse from beating  
And leave my role devoid of meaning.  
The laggard must this lesson learn,  
Once I pass there's no return,  
Though I stay I'm not the same,  
And his mistake is someone's gain.  
Did not Anthony learn too late  
How Cleopatra had sealed his fate  
By standing twixt us like a screen  
Till I passed by without being seen.  
Thus it's woe to all who me ignore  
And idly waste their written score  
Then turn to me and beg for more,  
Defiant am I to their encore.*

T. ROGERS

## Tales of Ind

### The Lady Vanishes

This story does not, strictly speaking, belong to The Tales of Ind category, but as Mr. Gilbert Harding might say, "it is animal and vegetable with strong Indian connections."

It is the turn of the century and Paris is crowded with visitors for the great Exhibition. Among the arrivals is a Mrs. Smith and her daughter, who are on their way from Bombay to London. They arrive, during the late afternoon, at a leading hotel and engage a suite. Shortly after their arrival Mrs. Smith complained of feeling unwell and asked her daughter to go out and get some aspirins from a chemist. Miss Smith was some time before she was able to find a chemist and nearly an hour had passed when she returned to the hotel. She went up to the reception desk and asked for the key of her room. She was met with a blank stare from the young lady receptionist. "I am sorry, Madame, but Madame is mistaken. Madame is not booked at this hotel." Miss Smith was surprised. "This is the Splendide?" The young lady agreed. "Show me the hotel register." The register was innocent of Mrs. and Miss Smith's names. By this time Miss Smith was on the border of hysteria. Then the porter who had taken their luggage to their suite passed and Miss Smith called to him. "You remember taking our luggage to Suite 50?" she said. Again she was met by the same look of non-recognition. "Pardon, madame, but madame is mistaken. I have never seen her in my life before." Miss Smith demanded to see the manager. When he arrived she explained the position and said, "To prove that I am speaking the truth, take me to Suite 50 and over the mantelpiece there is a picture of Napoleon." Accompanied by the manager she entered Suite 50, but there was no picture of Napoleon over the mantelpiece. In fact, the whole suite was different. The hangings, furniture, carpets, etc., were not only different in design but also in colour. That was the last straw and Miss Smith was hurried off to hospital.

★ ★ ★

What was the solution? "Elementary, my dear Watson."

After Miss Smith had gone to the chemist for the aspirins, Mrs. Smith became very

ill and when the doctor arrived she was dead. The doctor announced that the lady had died of bubonic plague. This was a terrible predicament for the authorities, for if it became known that there had been a case of bubonic plague in the city, Paris would have emptied overnight and great financial loss would have been suffered by thousands. The French, after their logical fashion, decided to wipe all traces of Mrs. Smith and her daughter right away.

Mrs. Smith's body was smuggled out of the hotel, the furniture, carpets, pictures, hangings, were all changed in the suite, the names of the couple removed from the hotel register and the staff sworn to secrecy. What happened to Miss Smith is not related, but the situation was saved.

★ ★ ★

I should like to add a short personal note. I'm afraid it, too, is macabre, but let's wallow in it while we are about it.

I was a small boy living with my parents in Bombay when bubonic plague arrived in that city from China. I can well remember the scenes that took place. The processions of bodies being carried along the streets and the flames shooting high above the walls of the Hindu burning Ghat on Queen's Road. We lived at Colaba, which was a black spot because all the cotton for export was stored in huge warehouses at Colaba. There was a large labour force needed for the industry, and they lived in large rooms nearby called "godowns." The people at first were panic-stricken and tried to hide cases and deaths, as they feared being evicted from their homes and having their property burned. My father was an honorary magistrate on plague duty at Colaba. One day he was told that a death had occurred in a certain godown. Armed with this information he went to the place at the meal hour. Pushing open the large door, he found, when his eyes had become accustomed to the gloom, that some forty men were seated cross-legged on the floor, each with a dish of food before him. Everything looked in order, but my father was not satisfied. He decided to order the men to leave the room one by one. They did, except for one man who sat at the back of the room near the wall. My father approached him and told him to get up, at the same time touching him on the shoulder. The body fell over. The search was ended.

DUNCAN MCALPIN



## Talking Book Library

### The Second Lot

"Leopard in my Lap," by Michaela Denis, reader Arthur Bush, is an account of snapping, snarling animals throughout Africa, in other words, photographing wild life. Dancing rituals of many obscure tribes, too, are covered—or more truthfully, uncovered. A fascinating book, although I found it slightly repulsive. *Cat. No. 979.*

"The Devil takes a Holiday," by Alfred Noyes, reader Adrian Waller, is most ironic, and amusing in a sinister fashion. High finance, pressure groups, and the moral fibre of scientists engaged in atomic research are held up and examined closely. The first two fall easy prey to the dollar-laden devil, but the scientist hero is dazed and puzzled, yet holds out against all blandishments. A priest, too, proves incorruptible, and the scene is set in California. *Cat. No. 978.*

"In search of Scotland," by H. V. Morton, reader Donald Bissett, is, to my mind, the most interesting of the "in search of" series. A tour around Scotland with a fine variety of historical anecdote touching upon all the more interesting places and people any mere Sassenach would care to hear about. Hail Caledonia! *Cat. No. 50* (This is a re-make).

"The story of San Michele," by Axel Munthe, reader Robin Holmes, is both the story of an island off Italy and a Swedish Cronin who has a way with animals. Epidemic, earthquake, and archæological discovery in Paris and San Michele respectively, plus occasional trips to Sweden and perpetual money troubles, make quite a yarn. Do read it. *Cat. No. 51* (a re-make).

"Revolt in the Desert," by T. E. Lawrence, reader Alvar Lidell, is the story of Lawrence of Arabia's organisation of the scattered Arabs into a fighting force against the Turks, 1916-17, and the remarkable results he achieved with a minimum of official support. *Cat. No. 82* (a re-make).

"A Summer Night," a novel by Alan Moorehead, reader Peter Fettes, was also released. *Cat. No. 295.*

NELSON.

The Catalogue Number of Alan Moorehead's biography of Field Marshall Montgomery was wrongly given last month as *Cat. No. 085*. This should have been *Cat. No. 985*.

## Any News?

Strange as it may seem, I received two braille letters by the same post from people who had never written to me before and both apologised for any mistakes, saying they had not used their braille writer for ages as they had nobody to write to. I wondered myself if a week had passed over the last thirty years, except when on holiday and that not including Ovingdean, when I had not written at least one letter in braille, and as a rule it is more. Where do I write to? Well, to blind people I have never met in Australia, South, East and West Africa, Canada and the U.S.A., and I have gleaned a wealth of information about blind welfare abroad and how these blind people live and what they do, where they have and have not a Braille Library; what it means to the blind in some parts if there is a political upheaval and the British or Americans lose control, and so on. These letters often take a bit of working out! Once I received a letter and after some time I found it had come from a native in South Africa. He had written it on a frame starting from left to right and doing the letters as one reads them from the other—and reading side. It was all cock-eyed but by reading it upside down I managed it. Do not misunderstand me. The majority of the braille I get from remote parts of the world is fine braille, written on good paper and in jolly good English, too.

I have a box near my front door, 1ft. long, 3 inches wide and 1 ft. deep. Into this the postman drops my magazines and letters. Sometimes I take a loosely rolled letter out and the date shows it has been written five weeks before it arrived. It might have crossed the desert, prairie or jungle before resting in the hold of a ship for anything up to a month, but to me it is NEWS.

GEORGE FALLOWFIELD.

### For Sale

"PLAYTIME" TAPE RECORDER for sale. Price to any St. Dunstaner who may be interested, £20. Apply W. A. Bramson, 104 Wellingborough Road, Northampton.

### Who is the Oldest St. Dunstaner?

W. L. P. Smith, of Eastbourne, can beat S. W. Wain's eighty-nine years. Mr. Smith will be 90 on June 18th.

## Grandfathers

A. T. Hazel, of Merton Park (Brenda, in South Africa has had a daughter); R. Edwards, of Feltham (a son for Joyce); B. M. T. S. Leete, O.B.E., of Stanmore; T. Cox, of Egham (the second grandchild); and new grandchildren for J. R. King, of Clifton, York; S. Mosely, of Halesowen; F. Cunliffe, of Eccleston, Chorley; T. Wood, of Congleton; and A. Keegan, of Cork (the nineteenth).

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. Matthewman have a grandson. It was wrongly reported in December that Doreen had had a daughter.

## Family News

The Rev. Howard Brown, son of A. A. H. Brown, of Reading, has been appointed to the living of Holy Trinity, Matlock Bath.

Jacqueline Scrimgour, Middlesbrough, who is studying to be a Mental Nurse, passed her preliminary examinations recently and has received a prize for the best result. She takes her finals next year.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Jean Murphy, Glasgow, on November 29th, to Walter Douglas.

Dorothy Margaret Speight, daughter of Canon Speight, on February 15th, to Ian McKenzie Aird.

## Births

CAMERON.—On January 1st, to the wife of R. G. Cameron, of Wembley, a son—Ian.

DONALD.—On January 12th, to Betty, the wife of Roman Donald, of Hove, a second son—Michael Richard.

REVELL.—On February 14th, to the wife of G. Revell, of Croxley Green, a daughter—Leigh Angela.

WINDLEY.—On January 31st, to the wife of H. Windley, of Hull, a daughter—Linda.

## Marriage

PURCELL—BIRTLES.—On December 28th, J. B. Purcell, of Urmston, to Mrs. Jean Birtles.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

PALMER.—To J. H. Palmer, of Leicester, whose father has died at the age of 83.

RADFORD.—To A. J. Radford, of Castle Cary, whose sister died at Plymouth on January 14th.

REED.—To W. Reed, of Barry, whose father died in January.

★ ★ ★

We have also heard with deep regret that Mrs. F. Coffey, of Hull, widow of P. Coffey, of Chadderton, Lancs., died in hospital on February 3rd.

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## "In Memory"—continued

**John W. Eastman, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve**

We have heard with deep regret of the death of John W. Eastman, of Cremorne, New South Wales, Australia, which occurred suddenly on November 29th, last. He lost his sight after service with the R.N.V.R. in Hong Kong.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

**R. Locket, Australian Forces**

It is with deep regret that we have heard of the death on December 11th last of R. Locket, of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia. He was 68 and had been a very sick man for several years. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1936.

Our deep sympathy is offered to Mrs. Locket.

**William Henry Woodward, Australian Forces**

The news of the passing on February 27th, 1957, of W. H. Woodward, of Moss Vale, New South Wales, Australia, has only just reached us. Mrs. Woodward, owing to her own illness, was unable to notify us earlier.

Our deep sympathy goes out to her.

**Leading Aircraftman Walter Henry Neal, Royal New Zealand Air Force**

We have heard with deep regret that W. H. Neal, of Paerora, New Zealand, died on December 9th last. He had served with the Air Force on home service during the Second World War and had received training at the New Zealand St. Dunstan's in typewriting, braille and occupational therapy.

He leaves a widow and family to whom our very sincere sympathy is sent.

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The regiment of the late Gordon Nancarrow, of Newquay, was given wrongly last month as the 1st County Durham Light Infantry. It should have been the 1st Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.



## "In Memory"

### Private Henry Abraham, *Cheshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of H. Abraham, of Ardwick, Manchester. He was 71.

He was an old soldier—he served with the regiment from October 1907, until December, 1915, but it was not until March, 1952, that he came to St. Dunstan's and his age and state of health then prevented any training.

At the time of his death, he was President of the Manchester Club and he and his wife were among its keenest supporters.

To Mrs. Abraham and her two sons our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private William Sharman Buckle, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of W. S. Buckle, of Pearson House, late of Bury St. Edmunds. He was 76.

Discharged from the Army in March, 1919, he came to us in March, 1938, where he trained in wool rug-making. He followed this craft only as a hobby, however, for his poor health made serious work impossible. After the death of his wife he became a permanent resident at St. Dunstan's and he died at Pearson House on January 25th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his brother.

### Private Patrick Campbell, *1st Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Patrick Campbell, of Cricklewood, at the early age of 37.

Paddy joined the Army in 1938. Two years later he was blinded in Belgium as the result of a shell explosion, was evacuated at Dinkirk and came straight to St. Dunstan's. He was one of our first Second War lads and will be remembered by many at Church Stretton.

He trained first in joinery and rug-making, then he entered industry and remained there until 1947. A year later he took a shop but later again entered industry until June, 1957, when his health broke down. In December he went into hospital, then to Pearson House, where he died on February 3rd.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Campbell and eleven year old Patrick.

### Private Frederick V. Hesketh, *1st Canadian Mounted Rifle Brigade*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. V. Hesketh, of Hove, at the age of 69.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1919, he trained as a netter and mat-maker. He continued with this work until 1951, but many years previously had turned with greater interest to his gardening and poultry-keeping. He lost his wife in September, 1945, and eight years later he married Miss Henshaw, a V.A.D. at Ovingdean. In April of last year his health began to fail and towards the end of the year his condition became serious. He was admitted to hospital but was discharged on January 7th and he died at his home on January 18th.

His St. Dunstaner friends at Ovingdean were represented at the funeral by Mr. W. Brislane, and Mr. Frank Rhodes represented the Brighton Club.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Hesketh.

### Private Charles Peach, *Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)*

We record with deep regret the death of C. Peach, of Redcar, at the age of 60.

He served with The Buffs from August, 1914, until February, 1923, and came to St. Dunstan's two years later. Until 1931 he was a basket-maker but was then settled as a poultry farmer. During the last war he was employed in a factory and later returned to netting and basket-work for the Stores. Latterly, however, his health had been very poor and he was forced to give up.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

### Private Robert Robertson, *9th Black Watch*

With deep regret we record the sudden death of R. Robertson, of Edinburgh; he was 63.

Enlisting in May, 1915, he was wounded in August, 1916, at Martinpunch, suffering severe damage to his left hand in addition to his blindness. He came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1918.

In April last year he had a serious illness but made such a good recovery that he was able to visit Brighton as recently as last September.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his sister and family.

### Private George Henry Maher, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of G. H. Maher, of Westcliff-on-sea, at the age of 65.

When he came to St. Dunstan's in 1919 he trained as a boot-repairer and mat-maker but had concentrated rather more on the latter. Last autumn he went for a long convalescent break to Ovingdean, but after Christmas his condition deteriorated and he died there on January 29th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his family.

### Flying Officer Harry P. Devenport, *Royal Air Force*

With deep regret and shock we have learned of the death of Harry Devenport, who was tragically drowned while swimming in Perth soon after arriving in Western Australia to take up an appointment as physiotherapist at a local hospital.

Harry was at St. Dunstan's in 1944.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Beryl, his wife, and to her two children.

### Major S. Bogicevic, *Royal Yugoslav Army*

His many friends will also deeply regret to learn of the death of S. (Steve) Bogicevic, of New Malden, as the result of a road accident. He, too, will be remembered by those who were at St. Dunstan's at the end of the last war.

We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. Bogicevic and her children.

(Continued on previous page)

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 457—VOLUME XLII

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PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

N EARLY forty years ago I was given the task of designing and building what was then called the After-Care Department of St. Dunstan's. This was the forerunner of the present Welfare Department and its function then, as now, was to give continuing advice and assistance to St. Dunstaners for the rest of their lives.

An essential part of the plan was that someone should go from St. Dunstan's to the St. Dunstaner at his home or place of work from time to time to see how he was getting on. These people were called After-Care Visitors, and were mainly women. I remember amongst early names, Miss Dorothy Ayre, Sister Goodey, Miss Gough, Miss Martha Wood, Mrs. Dunphy and Miss Hester Pease.

The Visitor is still an important member of St. Dunstan's staff and last week I attended a Conference of Welfare Visitors, as they are now called, at Headquarters. A splendid group of eleven women who, between them, cover the whole country and ensure a regular visit as well as emergency visits when they are required. They bring with them information about St. Dunstan's affairs upon which our advice or assistance may be welcome or valued. They also, I am sure, frequently have a good gossip about old times and mutual friends.

These contacts between St. Dunstan's and St. Dunstaners, together with those that are made at Reunions and at Ovingdean and Pearson House, tend to keep our family together and, apart from their practical value, contribute towards *esprit de corps*. I like to think that St. Dunstaners everywhere want to call themselves St. Dunstaners and to feel that they are all members of one loyal, strong and friendly movement; as the old hymn puts it, "All one body we."

We discussed work, Talking Books, radios and hobbies, areas, housing and a hundred and one other matters of daily interest to most St. Dunstaners. We wondered why some St. Dunstaners did not take advantage of the splendidly interesting and varied holiday and convalescent periods that are now available at Ovingdean, and all kinds of answers were given, including, "Too old to travel"; "Can't leave the wife"; "Brighton air is too strong for me"; "I can't walk up the hill there," and so on. I do not believe that these reasons, though sincerely given, are wholly valid. On the contrary, I believe that almost any St. Dunstaner who paid a visit to Ovingdean would enjoy it so much that he would go again. Moreover, I think his wife would be so delighted when he came back so fit and well that she would wish him to go again, and it might not be a bad thing for her to have a little bit of a change and a rest for a fortnight, for St. Dunstaners' wives have much to do looking after troublesome husbands, including me. I would much like to hear from individual St. Dunstaners who have perhaps given some of the reasons I have mentioned here, because I would like to argue the matter out with them in correspondence.

We owe a great deal to the staff of St. Dunstan's who have, ever since the beginning, given so much more to us all than duty required, and I place the service rendered by Welfare Visitors very high on the list.

IAN FRASER.



## The Royal Tournament and Trooping the Colour Ceremony

A few complimentary tickets for the Royal Tournament and Trooping the Colour Ceremony are usually presented to St. Dunstan's and I shall be pleased to receive applications from any men who wish to attend this year, should tickets again be forthcoming. As usual, if there are more applications than tickets, we will hold a ballot and notify everyone concerned nearer the time.

Both these events usually take place in the middle of the week.

C. D. WILLS.

## The Queen Mother Meets St. Dunstaners in Australia

Representing blinded ex-servicemen, St. Dunstaners P. J. Lynch, A. F. McConnell, and R. Archer and their wives were present at the State Reception, held in the Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne, and were presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

## Reunions, 1958

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reunion</i>
Saturday, 29th March.	WINDSOR.
Wednesday, 16th April.	EDINBURGH.
Friday, 18th April.	NEWCASTLE.
Saturday, 19th April.	LEEDS.
Friday, 2nd May.	MAIDSTONE.
Thursday, 8th May.	BELFAST.
Friday, 9th May.	DUBLIN.
Saturday, 17th May.	LUTON.
Saturday, 31st May.	BRISTOL.
Tuesday, 3rd June.	PLYMOUTH.
Saturday, 7th June.	BOURNEMOUTH.
Wednesday, 18th June.	BLACKPOOL.
Friday, 20th June.	CHESTER.
Saturday, 21st June.	MANCHESTER.
Saturday, 28th June.	CARDIFF.
Wednesday, 2nd July.	IPSWICH.
Friday, 4th July.	NOTTINGHAM.
Saturday, 5th July.	BIRMINGHAM.
Wednesday, 1st October.	BRIGHTON.
Friday, 3rd October.	LONDON.

(Brighton and London will be evening functions).

## Dance

St. Dunstaners in the London area may like to know that a Dance is being held at St. Pancras Town Hall, Euston Road, N.W. on Friday, April 25th, from 7 p.m. to midnight. The Dance is to help replenish the St. Dunstan's Lee-on-Solent Camp Fund.

Tickets are available at 5s. each from D. Deacon, Esq., "George IV," 28 Portugal Street, London, W.C. (HOP 6757) or from Mrs. Spurway, The Vicarage, Holmwood, Dorking (Dorking 73191).

We know already that quite a number of St. Dunstaners and their wives will be attending, as well as friends who help with the Camp. The Camp Committee hope that others living in London will also be able to come.

A large number of valuable prizes are being given for the draw.

## Joining the Army of To-day

"May I say how thoroughly I agree with Sir Ian. Not that I am a warmonger; I have seen too much of war to be that, but I do believe that, on the lowest plane, service in any of the Armed Forces is a life of adventure and comradeship; on the highest plane it can be a crusade for Peace and Freedom."

BILL MOON, *Harrogate*.

"I believe that a period in the Armed Forces is good for boy and girl; I have watched timid youngsters of both sexes come into the Army; I have been literally amazed in training depot days, to watch those youngsters go out alert, and full of good hopes and intentions, three to five weeks later."

MAUREEN LEES, *Birkenhead*.

"The only answer to Sir Ian's question re our attitude to recruitment for the Forces must be found in John's letter asking 'What do we think.' And will the REVIEW give space to what we think?"

"I have eight grandsons and I thank God that before they reach the present calling-up age, conscription, nicely called National Service, will have been abolished. That is, of course, providing that clear thinking has averted the threat of atomic war. We are, I think, the last people to act as recruiting agents, even though we were the bob a day volunteers in the 'Last Great War for civilisation'."

A. F. RADFORD, *Castle Cary*.

## London Club Notes

### St. Dunstan's Twelve Mile Handicap Walk and Match with the Metropolitan Police Saturday, 8th February, 1958

Order of Finish	Club	Time	H'p Allow- ance	H'p Time	Pos- in H'p
1. R. J. Hopper	Met. P.	110-07	—	—	—
2. P. A. Ansell	Met. P.	111-13	—	—	—
3. C. Williamson	St. D's	112-40	3-20	109-20	1
4. J. Robinson	Met. P.	114-56	—	—	—
5. W. Miller ...	St. D's	115-25	Scr.	115-25	4
6. J. Clifton ...	Met. P.	118-32	—	—	—
7. R. McAttee	Met. P.	119-07	—	—	—
8. A. Brown ...	St. D's	119-27	5-30	113-57	2
9. G. Hewitt ...	St. D's	119-42	4-30	115-12	3
10. C. Stafford ...	St. D's	136-05	15-00	121-05	5

#### Match Result:

Metropolitan Police	20 points
St. Dunstan's	35 points

## 1958 Derby Sweepstake

The Derby will be run on Wednesday, June 4th, and we invite applications from St. Dunstaners and St. Dunstan's trainees for tickets in our own Sweepstake. *No other person may enter.*

Please read the following rules carefully.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and application for them should be made as soon as possible and will be received up to the first post on **Wednesday, May 21st.** Every application must bear the name and address of the sender, together with the number of tickets required and must be sent to the Editor, *St. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW*, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Postal orders should be made payable to St. Dunstan's and crossed. St. Dunstaners are advised to send postal orders or cheques and *not* loose money unless it is registered. *Tickets will be issued consecutively.*

The total money subscribed, less the cost of printing and postage, will be distributed as follows:—

50% to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse;

20% to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse;

10% to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse;

20% to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts in the race.

No prize won in the Sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The Draw will take place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 29th, and all those drawing horses will be notified.

## The Sutton Club

In spite of very bad weather, our Club Meeting on March 8th had nearly a 100% attendance. Mrs. Spurway gave us the good news that she had found facilities for outdoor games during the summer months, and perhaps for swimming as well. At the meeting names were given to our President, Lady Onslow, of those members who, with their families, want to come on our trip to Bognor on Saturday, July 12th. There will be two coaches, one starting at Kingston and coming through to Sutton, the other starting from Croydon and then on to Sutton. There they will join up and travel together to Mr. and Mrs. Spurway's home at Holmwood, near Dorking, where we have a kind invitation to stop for refreshments en route to Bognor. We leave Bognor at about 5.30, returning to Holmwood for a little get-together before departing for home. If any members who were not at the meeting wish to come on this trip, will they please let me know as soon as possible because of booking the coaches.

We regret that there will not be a meeting in April (the Adult School is closing for Easter). Our next meeting will be on May 3rd.

We all wish Miss Stevens a speedy recovery. We missed her very much at our last meeting.

TED DUDLEY.

## Drummer Downs

A number of St. Dunstaners have expressed a desire to show in some practical form their appreciation of the help that Drummer Downs, who retired from the Appeals Department a short while ago, has given to them and to many other St. Dunstaners over the years.

Would St. Dunstaners wishing to subscribe to a fund for "Drummer" send their contributions to Mr. Lloyds, at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

★ ★ ★

H. Crabtree, of Wood Green, and H. Selby, of Patcham, have made a good recovery from their recent illnesses, we are glad to report. Both write and say how much they appreciate the care and nursing they have received at Ovingdean and the help and encouragement given to their wives.



## Letter to The Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Do others who have Talking Books find that their pleasure is increased, or otherwise, by the reader using dialect or accent to suit the characters in the book?

At the moment I am reading "Red-gauntlet," by Sir Walter Scott, and can truthfully say I haven't been able to understand much of the book so far because of the use of the broad Scottish brogue!

Apart from this, a reader does not always give a true accent and I find it infuriating to hear a Midlander with a Northern accent, and a Devon man with a Cockney! As we all know, dialect alters from one town to another, even from one village to the next, especially here in the North.

I would like the reader to read in his normal voice so that I can hear, and understand, every word, and so get the fullest possible enjoyment out of the book. Does anyone else feel as I do?

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) MARGARET STANWAY.

## Manchester Club Notes

### A New Meeting Place

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on February 14th, 1958, at Red Cross House, Pendleton. Appointments for 1958 were made as follows: *President*: Mr. A. Clarke; *Chairman*: Mr. W. Bramley; *Vice-Chairman*: Mr. G. L. Edwards; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. W. McCarthy; *Hon. Secretary*: Mr. J. Shaw.

The Statement of Accounts for the year 1957 was submitted and approved, and showed the Club to be financially sound.

It was agreed that the membership subscription should remain at five shillings for the year 1958.

One big question that has occupied the minds of faithful and regular attending members, especially since 1954, has been that of the suitability of the present Headquarters of the Club at Red Cross House, Pendleton. Here the accommodation is quite satisfactory and we have been given every facility, but we don't appear to be able to attract some St. Dunstaners to Pendleton, and we believe that this may be largely due to the difficulties of having to change buses in order to get to Red Cross House.

In 1954 a postal canvass of St. Dunstaners in the Manchester area was under-

taken and it showed that several men were prepared to become members if the meeting place was near the centre of the City, and since then, many enquiries have been made with a view to securing a convenient meeting place.

The Committee considered a report by a deputation which had visited the Wellington Hotel, 6A Nicholas Croft, Manchester 4, and the important question of moving our meeting place was discussed from every aspect.

Having regard to all the facts, the Club, at a meeting held on February 28th, decided to transfer its meeting place to the private Club Room at the Wellington Hotel, after giving one month's notice to terminate our arrangement with the Red Cross Society.

The present members of the Club sincerely hope that this carefully considered decision to give up our present headquarters will make it easier for very many St. Dunstaners to become members and attend meetings at the new meeting place, which is situated near the end of High Street, five minutes' walk from Piccadilly, and is also quite easily approached from other directions.

It is provisionally arranged that Club meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesdays in each month, at 6.45 p.m.

It is hoped that this report will interest all St. Dunstaners in the Manchester area, and so as to save correspondence, will all intending members please come along to the Wellington Hotel on the days and at the time stated. The first meeting in April will be on the 2nd.

If there are any enquiries regarding this matter, please write to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Shaw, 12 St. Oswald's Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan.

J. SHAW.

## Grandfathers

Canon W. G. Speight, of Oakham (his eldest daughter, Joan, has had a son at Kampala, Uganda); a second grandson for J. Griffiths, of Woodingdean, Brighton; J. W. Roylancs, of Atherton, near Manchester (for the tenth time); H. A. Davies, of Sandbach (the sixteenth grand-child); J. Boyd, of Brighton (the first grandson after two grand-daughters).

## Pro Bono Tempus

Now the days of the Dark Eyed Ones were diverse; there were those of many years who did sit around and talk; and some did sit around and think; and there were those whose time was spent just sitting around.

There were those whose time was spent in placing the tablets upon the tables, crying the while, "Fives up," and "Knocking," and an exultant cry of "Chips," and the gathering took place of coins.

Some did take themselves to the Crystal Hall upon the topmost floor of the great Palace, and did talk wistfully about "Honours," and two this and three of that, and although they dealt in Spades, they toiled not, and with Clubs, they smote not, with Diamonds they were not rich, and betwixt times with the Hearts they were sad, for the mysterious fourth one could not be found. Now these whose time was spent with the little pieces of parchment did talk much at all times of the games, even the games of ancient history, and did fight again the battles of pasteboard.

There are those of the younger Dark Eyed Ones whose hours are spent in "Amour Arduus," whose whole time be spent either talking upon the wires or hastening by the transport to meet the love of the moment at the Aquarium.

At times the Leader of the Great Palace and the Leader of the Handmaidens did give festive gatherings within the Hall, and the fair ladies of the area did come and did step a lively measure with many, and did foregather, at the interval, at the upper floor to eat and drink and hear tales of ancient whim.

Now at these Monday night gatherings it was the wont of one handmaiden, Mrs. Mac, to give each man a number and during a certain measure, halt the music, and cry a number. This doth happen thrice each Monday and the holders of the number shall have a gift, also his escort.

Now upon the forenoon of Tuesdays, some dozen or such number of Dark Eyed Ones sally forth during the longer days to St. Ann's Gardens, and when the sun was low in the heavens, to the King Alfred, and did at these places for nigh two hours speed upon its way the Wood, and it was not at all times that Jack was all right,

for these Bowlers of Wood did grow exceedingly clever, learning of Bias, and Weight, and Legs.

For these speeders of Wood did hearken unto the Elders who did come so faithfully to coach and guide them, and suffer much torment when some Dark Eyed One did that which he was not told. For these Dark Eyed Ones did uphold the honour of all the Dark Eyed Ones by going forth to meet those with sight and battle upon the Green, and did keep their end up most well. For it did greatly please the others and the Dark Eyed Ones did get asked back again and again, even to Woking, to Seaford, and even to Rottingdean.

Now also there are those who did foregather but once per moon within the Halls of the Palace and did struggle most earnestly at Domino, at Whist, at Crib, and Darts, for each year these men, known as the Tribe of Brighton Club, did strive to win one of the prizes which each year were given.

Now these of the Tribe did have many good times together and did sally forth for one day to see the Great Horse Race for what is known as the Blue Riband, even to many known as the "Derby"; also did they go out unto Rustington, for tea and games, and each year unto the Feasting Hall of Brighton to the Annual Dinner, and so hence we cry, in all good faith, "Pro Bono Tempus."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

## Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. A. Palfrey, of Barry, Glamorgan, February 9th; Mr. and Mrs. S. Russell, of Girton, Manchester, February 28th. Congratulations.

★ ★ ★

H. Watford, of Cudham, near Sevenoaks, and Mrs. Watford, have just organised their yearly whist drive in aid of St. Dunstan's which, as the local newspaper says, "has become an annual highlight for the village's winter programme."

This year £50 was raised and Mr. and Mrs. Watford made the trip to Ovingdean on March 12th to hand this sum to Mr. Jock Boyd, Appeals Representative.



## Talking Book Library

### Lot Three

The five books condensed here are all extremely earworthy without being either bloodcurdling or too unexciting.

"Greenmantle," by John Buchan, reader Eric Gillett, is a Hannay, Blenkiron, Arbuthnot, Peter Pienaar adventure in Turkey during the First World War. Hannay and Peter cross Germany as pro-German Boers and make their hair-raising way to meet the others in Constantinople. They uncover a conspiracy to bind the Arabs to the German cause and finish up in No Man's Land between Turks and Russians. *Cat. No. 88 (a re-make).*

"The Last Days of Pompeii," by Lord Lytton, reader Donald Bissett, is an exciting reconstruction of the last few months of events in Pompeii prior to the volcanic eruption that overwhelmed it. Hero and heroine are both Greeks, and the villain Arbaces, an Egyptian. There are feasts, gladiators and general decadence through which the Greeks and a blind slave girl shine brightly. Finally the sport in the arena is in full swing when the volcano goes up. Never a dull moment! *Cat. No. 251 (a re-make).*

"An Episode of Sparrows," by Rumer Godden, reader Stephen Jack, is a warm, sympathetic, human tale of children in a London back street. A little girl decides to make a garden on a small derelict plot near the church and, having enslaved a local boy gang-leader, she induces him to cart soil in a bucket from one of the big houses in the square. The two ladies who occupy the house become indignant, the children are caught, and when all is known all is eventually forgiven. Ladies will particularly enjoy this touching little story. *Cat. No. 72.*

"Alexandre Dumas," by André Maurois, reader Peter Fettes, is the biography of a man larger than life who wrote stories of the same calibre. Son of one of Napoleon's generals, he lived in stirring times and made an industry of story writing. He had to fight lawsuits brought against him by his collaborators, but he survived and squandered nearly all he made by magnificent living and generosity. *Cat. No. 73.*

"The Green Isle of the Great Deep," by N. M. Gunn, reader Stephen Jack, is a fascinating allegory. A highland shepherd takes Art, a boy, salmon poaching, both

fall in and at the bottom of the pool find a green paradise which, when they discover it to be under totalitarian control, they proceed to upset to the best of their ability. The shepherd survives a gruelling brain-wash but Art is hardly captured before they both come to. *Cat. No. 146.*

NELSON.

## Ovingdean Notes

St. Dunstaners from all over the country, most particularly those living in Sussex, will learn with the deepest regret, we know, of the sudden death of Mr. Howard Finlay during this month. He had been the Secretary of the Brighton, Hove and District Grocers' Association since Miss Beatrice Morley's retirement in December, 1950. His funeral, which took place on Saturday, March 15th, was attended by a representative number of St. Dunstan's men, together with Commandant and some of the Brighton Homes Staff.

To Mrs. Finlay and her family we extend our sincere sympathy. We at St. Dunstan's have lost a good friend, energetic and enthusiastic always. We shall remember him particularly at this year's Summer Outing, the arrangements for which he had announced so proudly at the Christmas Party in December last . . . a visit to Arundel and the Castle.

★ ★ ★

Ovingdean Sports and Garden Party will be held this year on Saturday, June 21st, commencing at 2.30 p.m.

★ ★ ★

A large audience was present in the Winter Garden, on Sunday, March 16th, for a play-reading at which the well-known stage stars, Kay Hammond and John Clements, took the parts they had originally performed on the London stage. The play was "The Happy Marriage," by John Clements. Mr. John Salew was instrumental in persuading Miss Hammond and Mr. Clements to come along to St. Dunstan's and we were all more than delighted when they promised this would not be their last visit. We shall much look forward to them coming again.

## For Sale

Rolls Razor, Imperial Model, in case complete, as new—17s. 6d.

Remington Countour 6 Electric Razor in case complete, as new, adjustable voltage, adaptor plugs, brush—£5. Apply: Mudge, 26 Lustrells Vale, Saltdean.

## From All Quarters

John Triggs, of Ashford, was rescued by his 23-year old son, Peter, when fire broke out following an explosion in his workshop. Our St. Dunstaner, we are glad to report, is now recovering from the burns and shock resulting from the fire.

★ ★ ★

Eric Ashby and Herbert Greasley, both of Coventry, featured prominently in the local press last month. One headline ran, "Two fine men set an example." They are both on engineering work—Herbert with his pre-war firm, Morris Motors, and Eric with British Thomson Houston.

★ ★ ★

Dick Taylor, of Fordhouses, is also on engineering work and he and his job were given publicity in the *Wolverhampton Express and Star* on March 5th. He also had worked for his firm before the last war.

★ ★ ★

In a letter to the Appeals Department, members of the Harwich Branch, Royal Artillery Association, send greetings and good wishes for the future to all St. Dunstan's artillerymen.

★ ★ ★

Gerry Brereton travelled 1,200 miles in a fortnight to appear in concerts in aid of the Lord Mayor of Manchester's "Manchester United Munich Disaster Fund." All those who died were known to him personally and he, like all the other artists, gave his services voluntarily.

★ ★ ★

Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., R.A.F. (retd.), has been appointed Honorary Air Commodore of the County of Sussex Fighter Control Unit, Eastbourne, and the County of Sussex Radar Reporting Unit, Brighton. Air Commodore Dacre was awarded the Royal Aero Club Pilot's Certificate No. 162 in 1911, and was the first British airman to sink an enemy ship by torpedo dropped from a plane. His St. Dunstan's friends will congratulate him upon his interesting new appointments.

## Marriage

CHUBB.—On February 22nd, K. Chubb, late of Basingstoke, and now re-training.

## Births

BOUGHTON.—On February 24th, to the wife of F. Boughton, of Silverstone, a daughter.

FILBY.—On March 1st, to the wife of W. E. Filby, of Streatham, a son—Colin.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

BOWEN.—To H. Bowen, of Haverfordwest, whose wife died on February 26th.

DONCASTER.—To F. Doncaster, of Canonbury, N.1, whose brother died on March 16th. Our St. Dunstaner lost another brother only thirteen months ago.

JORDAN.—To S. J. Jordan, of Luston, near Leominster, whose wife died on March 9th.

MORRIS.—To W. G. Morris, of Southbourne, whose father has very recently died.

NOBLE.—To R. Noble, of Middlesbrough, who lost his sister at the end of last year.

PALMER.—To H. Palmer, of West Hartlepool, whose brother died at Pocklington in January. Our St. Dunstaner lives with another brother to whom our sympathy also goes.

ROSE.—To G. W. Rose, of Pontefract, whose son was killed in a pit accident on February 15th.

## Family News

Neil Richmond (Harrogate) has won the Music Prize at Ripon Grammar School for the third time. Neil, whose father is dead, is at present studying at the St. John's Teachers' Training College, York.

★ ★ ★

Sheila Read (Weybridge) has passed Grade I Theory of Music with Honours and a prize.

★ ★ ★

Top of their forms at the Christmas examinations—David and Peter McDermott of Davyhulme, Manchester.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Doris Cunliffe, Ecclestone, to Robert Alan Blundell on March 1st.

Joan Brougham, Liverpool, to Melville Mayers, on March 1st.

Ada Peacock, Stokesley, to Arthur Featherston, on March 15th.



## “In Memory”

### Rifleman Thomas Brown, *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Tom Brown, of Shoreditch. He was sixty-four. He did not come to St. Dunstan's until November of last year. He went at once to Ovingdean but his age and the state of his health prevented any training. He died at Ovingdean two months later. St. Dunstaners J. McGuire and W. Brislane attended the funeral, representing St. Dunstan's and staff. To his married daughter, Mrs. Dodds, our deep sympathy is extended.

### Sergeant Patrick Condon, M.M., *Royal Munster Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of P. Condon, of Cork, Eire, at the age of sixty-one. He served with his regiment from April, 1914, until his discharge in April, 1920, and came to St. Dunstan's in June of 1938. He trained then as a basket-maker and followed his craft until 1953, when ill-health made it impossible for him to continue. We send to Mrs. Condon and her family our deep sympathy.

### John Roland Cook

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of J. R. Cook, of Stow-on-the-Wold. He was seventy and he died on January 22nd, the day on which he came under St. Dunstan's care. He did not, therefore, live to read Sir Ian Fraser's letter welcoming him to St. Dunstan's. Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow.

### Aircraftsman George Richard Alfred Davey, *Royal Air Force*

With deep regret we record the death of G. R. A. Davey, of Ore, Hastings. He was seventy-seven. He came to us in May, 1956, but his age prevented any training. He was a widower and our sincere sympathy is extended to his son, and to his landlady, Miss Moll, who had looked after him for the past five years.

### Private William Kirkman, *Grenadier Guards*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. Kirkman, of Thorpe Bay, at the age of sixty-eight. He came to St. Dunstan's in April, 1918, but at first did not take any training. Later he did homecrafts including string bag work and some wool rugs. His health, however, had been very poor in recent years. He died on February 16th. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Kirkman and her family.

### Private Joseph Healey, *9th South Lancashire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Healey, of Bradford, Manchester. Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded at Salonica in February, 1917, and he came to us in December of that year and trained as a boot-repairer. He was only able to follow this occupation for about four years, however, for his health had been poor for many years. He died on February 28th—the day of his Golden Wedding—and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Healey and her family in their loss.

### Gunner William Edward Smith, *Royal Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of W. E. Smith, of London, N.14, at the age of fifty-seven. He was discharged from the Service in 1927 (he was partly on reserve service) and he came to us in May, 1956. He was, however, a sick man and he could not undertake any training. He had had many periods of illness since he came to us and he died in hospital on February 25th. He was a widower and our deep sympathy goes out to his son with whom he lived, and to his sister, who acted as housekeeper to her brother and nephew.

### Frederick Ashby Stringer, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we record the death at the age of eighty of F. A. Stringer, of Levenshulme, Manchester. He was an old soldier, having enlisted in 1900, and he served until his discharge in September, 1915, but it was not until as recently as November, 1952, that he came to us. In addition to his blindness he had the handicap of deafness, and training, on account of age his, was not possible. But even as recently as last year he was able to come to Brighton, for he was remarkably active for his age. He had a fine character and very cheerful spirit and when he came to St. Dunstan's in 1952, he was elected Life President of Manchester Boys' Brigade as a tribute to his courage. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Stringer and her son.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## Sir Arthur Pearson and the R.N.I.B.

A History of the Royal National Institute for the Blind has recently been published.\* It covers the years of the Institute's foundation by Thomas Rhodes Armitage, in 1868, up to 1956. There is one chapter which will be of particular interest to St. Dunstaners. It is Chapter 3—ARTHUR PEARSON.

The year is 1912, and money is sorely needed for the new premises which are essential for the ever-increasing work of the British and Foreign Blind Association (later to be named the National Institute for the Blind).

"The office files grew daily bulkier with sympathetic letters from the secretaries of charitable trusts regretting that they could not assist. Meanwhile the basement waters rose (a stream flows underground in the vicinity) and extra pumping expenses were incurred . . .

"Then, with dramatic suddenness, the clouds lifted. On October 14th, 1913, it was moved by the Chairman at a meeting that 'Mr. C. A. Pearson be, and is hereby appointed, a member of the Executive Council.' The cloistered calm of the Committee room was destined to be shattered, but the situation was saved. For Arthur Pearson, the new Committee member (caustically described by the young Mr. Winston Churchill of those days as 'the champion hustler of the Tariff Reform League'), brought with him a genius for money-raising perhaps never equalled in living memory, the acumen of a successful business man, kindness of heart concealed under an autocratic manner, and that fellow-feeling for the blind which belongs to some of those who, like himself, have been

overtaken by blindness at the height of a brilliant career, and have the courage to build a new life on the ruins of the old.

"Characteristically, the new recruit lost no time in getting to work. He set himself the task of raising £30,000, and a few months later the Association's Annual Report states: 'His efforts have met with the most gratifying success, so that the completion and equipment of the new building have been assured, and a good start made with the Endowment Fund.'

"In one way and another, in little more than a year, the sum of nearly £60,000 was raised and Arthur Pearson was made the first President of the National Institute in recognition of his work."

With the opening of the new buildings by King George V, and the new name, the history of the National Institute passed a landmark, but in August, 1914, only a few months later, the country was plunged into war. Surely at such a moment caution must be their watch-word, and this was no moment for new enterprises? But that was not Arthur Pearson's way, and at this meeting, a decision was taken which was to have far-reaching effects: 'It was resolved,' runs the Committee minute, 'that steps should be taken to make it known that the Institute would, so far as practicable, help such men as lose their sight while in service in the war.' The Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel, named 'St. Dunstan's,' was established in Mr. Otto Kahn's mansion in Regent's Park. So St. Dunstan's came into being, and for eight years remained an integral part of the work of the National Institute for the Blind. For the rest of his life, Sir Arthur Pearson devoted a great part



of his remarkable gifts to the work of caring for the blinded ex-servicemen, though he always retained a warm concern for the other work of the Institute and was responsible for the initiation of many new projects. It was not until 1922, the year following his death, that it was agreed that the importance of the work undertaken by St. Dunstan's made it advisable that in future it should function independently.

"In the eight years in which he had been the dominant figure in blind welfare in this country, as President of the National Institute and as founder of St. Dunstan's, he had done remarkable work. Few men could have been more different than he and Dr. Armitage, but both made a vital contribution to the welfare of the blind."

\*"The Royal National Institute for the Blind, 1868-1956," by Mary G. Thomas. Published by the R.N.I.B. Price 7s. 6d.

★ ★ ★

### The Luton Reunion

#### A Change of Date

The Luton Reunion will not, after all, be held on Saturday, May 17th, but on Saturday, July 12th.

★ ★ ★

### The Windsor Reunion

The first Reunion of the year was held at the White Hart Hotel, Windsor, on Saturday, March 29th, and some two hundred St. Dunstaners were present to meet Sir Ian Fraser, who presided, and Lady Fraser.

The Reunion was also a very special occasion in that presentations were to be made to Mr. L. Banks, M.B.E., and Miss Frances Morris, upon their retirement. Mr. George Eustace, on behalf of St. Dunstaners all over the country, presented Mr. Banks with a chiming clock and a cheque, and Mr. J. Gimber presented to Miss Morris a radio set and a cheque as a token of their esteem and with their best wishes for a happy retirement.

The following are extracts from Sir Ian's speech:

"Wars end, wounds heal, but blindness remains and the toll is not ended, for some war blindness is slow to develop. In the last ten years almost a thousand men have come to St. Dunstan's. Five hundred as the result of fading sight from the second war, eventually leading to blindness, and no less than 400 very long delayed cases

from the first war. Mustard gas—mercifully absent from the second war—accounts for some of these long delayed cases, for a touch of mustard gas in the eyes may produce blindness twenty to thirty years later.

"I have often speculated as to whether it is better to go blind suddenly on the battlefield or slowly over the years. It is hard to give a final answer, for much depends on circumstances and temperament but I have seen much suffering where the light has failed slowly and quick and easy re-adjustment where blindness has been sudden and absolute. Moreover, often the fear of blindness is worse than blindness itself.

"The contemporary argument about nuclear and conventional weapons reminds me that I, together with many hundred of others, was, in fact, blinded by a bullet forty years ago. This seems very old-fashioned now, but it shows that even conventional weapons are not so innocent and gentlemanly as present-day talk would have us believe.

"There have always been outstanding individuals who found a way of life of their own, whatever cruel blows fate might have dealt them, but this must be the first time in the history of the world that so complete a record of successful rehabilitation of large numbers of ordinary men—and a few women—could have been placed on record. In the two great wars and the smaller ones between, such as Palestine, Korea, Kenya, etc., over 5,000 men and a few women have lost their sight as a result of war service, and have come to St. Dunstan's to learn to be blind. Save for those first war men who are now old and retired, and for the few who cannot work because they have been too grievously hurt, St. Dunstaners are gainfully occupied earning some kind of living, taking a place amongst men, achieving a high degree of independence. This is the miracle St. Dunstan's has wrought."

★ ★ ★

On April 21st, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser visited Pearson House and Ovingdean. Their grand-daughter, Caroline, aged twelve, accompanied them and had a look round the building where her mother, Mrs. Macdonald, had been a V.A.D. during the opening months of the war, when the casualties first came in from France via Newhaven.

## The Derby Sweepstake

As announced last month, applications can now be received for tickets in our Derby Sweepstake. Once again you are reminded that only St. Dunstaners may hold tickets and prize money will not be paid to any other person.

The closing date is Wednesday, May 21st. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each and are obtainable only from the Editor, ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1. The draw will take place at the London Club on Thursday evening, May 29th.

## The Chess Week-end

The Chess Week-end at Ovingdean this year will be held from Friday, September 26th, to Monday, September 29th (nights inclusive), and I shall be writing to all those St. Dunstaners on my chess list nearer the time, concerning these arrangements. Any men who have not previously joined the Chess Tournaments are welcome to do so. They need not necessarily be expert players in order to qualify.

C. D. WILLS.

## Stop Press

Norman Nolde, of Victoria, Australia, writes:

"I am glad to say that my Scout Troop is running very well. I now have 42 boys and three Assistant Scoutmasters. I would like to know if there are any other St. Dunstaners who hold Scoutmaster Warrants. It would be very interesting to hear from anyone who has an interest in Scouting."

★ ★ ★

Maureen V. Lees writes:

May I say a sincere thank you to the friends, all of whom gave no address, for the pieces of material recently received for my coat hangers. Also the friend who sent me the box of lavender. I will write as soon as I can. For the past eight weeks my mother has been too ill for me to get down to serious letter writing, as the noise of a typewriter until now has been too much for her.

★ ★ ★

C. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds, and Mrs. Smith, have again been elected to the Committee of the local branch of B.L.E.S.M.A.

## "World Without Shadow"

We take the following from the *New Beacon*, dated March 25th.

"A notable addition to the growing library of documentary films about blind welfare in Britain has been made by St. Dunstan's in this latest film, which had its preview before a specially invited audience at the Hammer Theatre, Wardour Street, London, on February 13th.

"A twenty-minute documentary, made by Rank Screen Services and directed by Anthony Asquith, 'World Without Shadow' seeks to answer the question, 'What is St. Dunstan's really like?' Mr. Asquith has pinned his faith to the ability of St. Dunstaners themselves to answer this question, and like the R.N.I.B.'s 'Conquest of the Dark,' there is only one professional in the cast.

"The central figure is a St. Dunstaner revisiting Ovingdean with his sighted fiancée, and it is through her eyes that one receives the impact of the great and varied activities of Britain's organisation for those men and women blinded on active service. One sees St. Dunstaners from all walks of life at work and play, commencing their training or relaxing in their assurance of successful achievement against a background of scenic beauty and unobtrusive efficiency. Through the medium of her blind fiancée's renewal of acquaintanceship with old colleagues and staff, the girl comes to realise the full extent of his 'Victory over Blindness.'

"This is a story of post-war St. Dunstan's, told by St. Dunstaners themselves, and it consequently carries a stamp of authenticity which will commend it to the wider public, who will certainly wish to see it."

## Personal

Our French St. Dunstaner, M. Gustave Envin, receives paying guests at his large villa at Biarritz. All comforts, park, garage, good cooking. £8 per week.

He has also to let a *pavilion*, four rooms, in the park, with kitchen, running water, etc. £12, June or October. £80 for the three months of the season (July, August, September).

M. Envin is a Master of Arts, Master of Law (Paris), and of International Law (Harvard).

His address is: Villa Itsas Mendia, Chemin de Salon, Biarritz, France.



## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—We heartily congratulate our London Business Houses team, who are again this year League Divisional Champions (West Central Section). They have played ten matches, of which they won eight, drew one and lost one.

This is a wonderful achievement. Their opponents this year have been the Civil Service (two teams), Aquarius, Carreras, and Unicorn.

The members of the team were Messrs. P. Nuyens (captain), H. Gover, F. Winter, C. Bulman, C. F. Thompson and M. Delaney.

This is the third time our team has finished at the top of their Section although, of course, their opponents vary each year.

The play-off for the De la Rue Cup takes place at G.P.O. Headquarters on April 22nd, and the team will receive their medals at a Meeting to be held in May.

## Manchester Club

The results of the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Competitions for 1957 were as follows:

*Darts T.B.* A. Clarke.

*Darts S.S.* W. McCarthy and S. Russell.

*Dominoes.* H. W. Bramley and H. Abraham.

*Cribbage.* H. Abraham and H. W. Bramley.

The Cups go to the first-named in each case.

The end of the Competitions were marked by a Grand Domino Drive, held on March 14th, when the first three prizes went to A. Clarke, J. Shaw and S. Russell.

We left our meeting place at Red Cross House, Pendleton, on March 28th, after nine years of very ready co-operation by the Red Cross Society (Salford Division), to whom our grateful thanks have been extended, and are here recorded in great appreciation of their kindness.

Our first meeting at the Wellington Hotel, Manchester, was held on April 2nd, and this was marked by a Domino Drive in which we invited our ladies and escorts to compete all on equal terms. The principal prizes, offered by the Club, went to Mrs. Abraham and Mr. A. Clarke.

We had pleasure in welcoming some new members at this first meeting, due, of

course, to our appeal last month. There is little doubt, however, that many more could join us at these meetings if efforts were made. If the day or time of meetings—now the first and third Wednesdays in each month, at 6.45 p.m.—are unsuitable to any intending member, will he please inform the Club Secretary and an attempt will be made to meet the wishes of the majority.

J. SHAW, *Hon. Secretary.*

## National Library for the Blind

E. W. Austin

### Memorial Reading Competition

The twenty-ninth E. W. Austin Memorial Braille Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, June 7th, 1958.

Unseen passages will be read, and prizes awarded for fluency, ease of diction and general expression. (Should the entries in any class be very limited, prizes will be awarded only if merited).

The classes of interest to St. Dunstaners are:

*Class A.* Advanced readers in competition for the Blanesburgh Cup.

*Class B.* Other readers in competition for the Stuart Memorial Cup.

*Class C.* Readers who have lost their sight since 1939, and who have learnt to read Braille since the age of 16 (and who do not feel competent to enter the more advanced classes), in competition for the Lady Buckmaster Cup. (Entrants for this class will not read in the afternoon, but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

*Open Competition.* A special competition open to all readers eligible to enter Classes A and B, and to all previous winners of the Open, Medale, and Classes A, B, and C, for a reading from the poetry of John Masefield.

*Class E.* Open to blind readers of Braille who are also deaf. (Entrants for this Class will not read in the afternoon, but the winners will receive their prizes in the afternoon).

Intending competitors should send their names to the Secretary, National Library for the Blind, 35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, not later than Friday, May 23rd, stating in which Class they wish to enter.

## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I agree with Mrs. Margaret Stanway that dialect should not be used by readers for Talking Books, except when it is perfectly done and can be understood by the ordinary listener. The importance of expression and good diction cannot be over-estimated, and I have only come across one reader whose voice became rather boring, and I take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation and gratitude to them for the many books I have already greatly enjoyed.

Yours faithfully,

Littlehampton.

ARTHUR T. BROOKS.

DEAR EDITOR,

Further to the extract from my letter to Sir Ian on the subject of service in the Armed Forces, I note one critic is not in favour of service. There will no doubt be others. The following notes may make my point of view more clear.

In two world wars we have won the right, as a nation, to maintain our own democratic form of government, and, as individuals, our own responsible freedom.

The only way to win any future world war is to prevent it! One cannot prevent disaster by pretending there is no danger, and we do not make disaster more certain by taking precautions!

When the sea threatens to engulf part of our island, we build strong defences behind which we may live in peace and security. Only a strong Navy, Army and Air Force can preserve peace—unless, of course, we accept the alternative and become a slave state to a foreign dictator, renouncing all liberty of individual thought and action.

Yours sincerely,

Bilton, Harrogate.

BILL MOON.

DEAR EDITOR,

I am ashamed to admit it, but whenever a holiday at Ovingdean was suggested to me I imagined it to be a place perhaps one degree better than Borstal, Wormwood Scrubs, or Broadmoor!

My favourite excuse for dodging the issue was, "I can't leave my wife." Having just returned from a delightful holiday at Ovingdean, and having found my wife in the best of spirits and our little business flourishing, I now realise that my favourite excuse was quite false and worthless.

I never used to believe it, but this separate holidays stunt for husbands and wives cuts both ways. Any woman married to a St. Dunstaner ought to get a medal. They have to put up with an awful lot, and if we can get away from them for a short spell and leave them to their own devices, it works wonders. It is even better than buying them a new hat.

In my particular case my wife happens to be a Hungarian, and, after a long struggle, we managed to get her mother out from Budapest. They had not seen each other for twenty years, so you can imagine how much they had to talk about.

During my three weeks' absence, my wife and her mother had a good old "natter" together without interruptions from me, and they spring-cleaned the house from top to bottom, and as my dear mother-in-law happens to be an expert needlewoman, all our bed sheets, curtains, towels, tablecloths, and clothes have been repaired in my absence. It's Ovingdean for me next spring, without a shadow of a doubt.

Incidentally, we in this country don't realise how lucky we are. We are always grumbling about the high cost of living, taxation, and bad working conditions, but having heard some really true stories about conditions on the other side of the Iron Curtain, I will try never to grumble about anything again. We ought to be thankful to be where we are.

Yours sincerely,

London, W.11.

JOHN MARTIN.

## The Eternal Springs

The following lines are dedicated to the Staff of St. Dunstan's, in all departments, as a token of appreciation of their kindness since I became a member of St. Dunstan's ten years ago.

*The spring upon the mountainside doth bubble  
forth its water pure and cool,  
Which freshens weary climbers and inspires in  
them desire to higher climb,  
If, like the mountain spring, thou bubbles o'er with  
kindliness*

*It warms the hearts of all who meet with thee  
And kindles in their breasts desire to kindlier be,  
And if thou givest love from a pure heart it draws  
to thee*

*A love, transcending all that is of earth, and is  
Divine,*

*And from these springs a greater happiness is born  
That's borne upon the wings of time into eternity.*

W. C. HILLS.



## Talking Book Library

### Spring Summary

Here are six more books, one or two of which may tickle many separate fancies by way of the eardrums.

"Eugenie Grandet," by Henri de Balzac, reader Robin Holmes, is a last century, small town, French affair. The heroine, daughter of a money-grabbing old skinflint, has finally, after many vicissitudes, to be content with her lot as a multi-millionairess. Rather depressing, unless one starts reading in high spirits, but it's mercifully short. *Cat. No. 216.*

"The Abominable Snowman Adventures," by Ralph Izzard, reader Alvar Lidell, is the account of a Himalayan expedition. A sort of Robinson Crusoe expedition which never quite catches up with the prints of its Friday. Despite the lack of a Yeti (abominable snowman), the venture was a distinct botanical success, and the account is full of incident. *Cat. No. 478.*

"Redgauntlet," by Sir Walter Scott, reader Donald Bisset, is a border yarn pitched some twenty years after the 1745 rebellion. The final third of it is told by an exchange of letters and all the threads are woven neatly together in the pleasant style of the Wizard of Abbotsford. *Cat. No. 988.*

"Dark Rise to Candleford," a trilogy by Flora Thompson, reader Eric Gillett, has no blood and thunder excitement to recommend it, but seldom have I read a story of more simple, straightforward, unvarnished human sympathy. It goes, or at least takes, a young girl from hamlet to village. This deserves to be read and to all readers over fifty, "you owe it to yourself to enjoy a little moment of nostalgia." *Cat. No. 989.*

"Saint Overboard," by Leslie Charteris, reader Robert Gladwell, is another hectic episode of Simon Templar and his cohorts. This time it involves deep sea diving to intercept crooks en route to pinching bullion worth millions. *Cat. No. 993.*

"The Overloaded Ark," by Gerald M. Durrell, reader Franklin Engelmann, was also released. *Cat. No. 557.*

"NELSON,"

★ ★ ★

Fisherman R. Gadsby, of Oakwood, has caught sixty pike in the last four months.

## From All Quarters

In the East Sussex County Council elections, H. W. Greatrex, of Peacehaven, has been returned unopposed. Mr. Greatrex represents Lewes Rural. He has served on Peacehaven Parish Council since 1950 (Chairman for the last six years) and Chailey Rural Council since 1952. He is also on the executive committee of the Sussex Parish Councils' Association. He now joins the County Council at his first attempt.

★ ★ ★

The "Down Your Way" programme, on April 6th, came from Regent's Park, and Sir Ian Fraser was the first personality to be interviewed by Franklin Engelmann.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. W. Lowings has been presented with a gold "Thank You" Brooch, by the R.A.O.B. Minden Rose Lodge, Winchester, in recognition of the help and support given to her husband. Our St. Dunstaner has been Chief Officer of the Lodge and Delegate to the Grand Lodge, of which at one time he was the Grand Chamberlain—the only blind man to have held this important office.

★ ★ ★

W. Nixon, of Sheffield, has been elected Chairman of the "Fellowship of the Services" Mess for this year.

★ ★ ★

H. F. Wood, of Doncaster, says that on April 1st one of his chickens made an April fool of him by laying an egg which resembled a goose egg rather than a chicken's egg. It weighed four and a half ounces.

★ ★ ★

At the local Blind Show, at Diss, H. F. Goodley won second prizes for his hyacinths and tulips.

★ ★ ★

F. Griffie's son is a staff photographer on the *Bristol Evening Post*, and a picture taken by him has been selected as one of the British Press Pictures of the Year. The photograph, which was reproduced widely in the British press at the time it was taken, shows Princess Margaret sitting on the ground at a sporting event. She is turning to fondle the head of a dog through the palings of the fence behind her. The Queen Mother is also turning to look at the dog. The smiling onlookers behind complete a picture which is completely natural, and well deserves its award.

## Family News

Jack Loram (Brixham), who joined the Royal Navy as a Second Class Stoker in February, 1937, has now received the rank of Lieut. Commander. He is stationed at Malta.      ★      ★      ★

Mrs. Farnsworth (Guiseley, near Shipley), plays table tennis for Yorkshire.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Muir, of Whitley Bay, were thrilled to have a visit recently from their daughter Audrey, who lives in America.      ★      ★      ★

The grandson of R. Edwards, of Denbigh, plays in the reserve side of Wolverhampton Wanderers football team.

Arthur Dakin (Blackpool), is now a member of the Royal Artillery Band, Plymouth.      ★      ★      ★

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Hilary Singleton, Mark, near Highbridge, Somerset, on March 15th, to Brian Smart, Royal Navy.

Cyril Sidney North, Taunton, on March 27th, at Falmouth, Cornwall, to Miss Viola Cock. The bride and bridegroom are both Field Officers on the Advisory Executive of the Ministry of Agriculture. They will live in Cornwall. "Gen." quips: "There was only one thing missing at the reception. A Highland Regiment or the Dagenham Girl Pipers ought to have played the COCK of the NORTH!"

James Thomas Ashe, B.Sc., Lancing, to Margaret Dora James.

Sydney John Power, Filton, Bristol, on March 8th, to Mary Vickery.

Ethel Jones, Northwich, on April 3rd, to Harry Simcock.

Nancy Murphy, Glasgow, on April 3rd, to James Freail.

Maureen Griffiths, step-daughter of W. J. A. Edwards, of Kemp Town, Brighton, on April 12th, to Corporal J. Davey, R.E.M.E.

Jeannette Loftly, Norwich, on March 29th, to Clifford Lawes.

Petty Officer Trevor Holland, Heswall, on April 5th, to Miss Sheila Leadbetter. The bridegroom is an instructor at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth.

Margaret Whitley, East Wellow, Romsey, on November 30th, 1957, to Peter Wheeler-Osman.

Audrey Jean Smith, Walsall, Staffs., on March 5th, to Jeffrey L. Milner. The bride and bridegroom are both deaf and dumb. Audrey's father gave her away, and there was an interpreter present. It was, indeed, as the local paper put it, "a wedding with a difference," and it was a very lovely one.

## It Happened in the Boer War

In 1900 I was with Colonel de Lisle's Mounted Brigade, and we were holding an outpost on the Modder River, about twenty miles from Bloemfontein. We were waiting for reinforcements, both men and horses, for we were badly hit in manpower by enteric fever.

One morning, on patrol, we had a small skirmish and Corporal Allen was badly wounded. Corporal Allen was a friend of mine before he volunteered for the Boer War. In fact we went to the same public school, and we were both heavy *tea* drinkers. Unfortunately, Corporal Allen died of his wounds six months later, and I wrote to his father and said how sorry we all were. He had lost a very good son and we had lost a very fine N.C.O.

Twelve months after, our Brigade was in Newcastle, North Natal, awaiting orders. We got an urgent call to entrain at once and go to Klerksdorp, Western Transvaal. It was late when we left—about 7 p.m.—and I and five others were in the second carriage from the engine. It was a very long train. At half past eleven, the train stopped suddenly for no reason. It was near no station or siding, just on the veldt. I looked out. It was a misty night with a little moonlight. I saw someone coming to me and when he got close, I got quite a shock. It was Corporal Allen. I could not understand how the hospital had made this error. He said to me, "If you want a drink of *tea*, they have made some at the end of the train in the last van." Then he turned and went back. I hurried out to catch him up, but he had disappeared in the mist. I went to the end of the train. They had made *tea* in the last van, and, just as I had got in, the train moved off without any warning and I had to stay there. At 5.30 in the morning we had a head-on collision with another train and the five men in the carriage I had left were killed. Corporal Allen had died six months before.

*Wavertree, Liverpool.*

ERNEST BOWLER.



## “In Memory”

### Private Frank Meader, 2nd Welch Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on March 22nd, of F. Meader, of East Barnet. He was 71.

He was blinded on April 1st, 1915, and he came to St. Dunstan's the same year. He was trained as a mat-maker and he continued his craft for many years until his health deteriorated. Although he had been in poor health for some considerable time, his death was quite unexpected.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Meader and her family.

### Lance Corporal Arthur Henry Luker, 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of A. H. Luker, of Wootton, Boars Hill, Oxford, at the age of 78.

In 1900 he joined the Hampshire Regiment and three months later was sent to Malta, where he served for three years. When war broke out in 1914 he was on the Reserve and, on re-joining, was drafted to the Berkshire Regiment. At the battle of Cambrai, he was blinded and buried when the trench blew in, and after many months in hospital, he came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1918, when he trained as a boot-maker and mat-maker, but continued only with mats. This he did until 1930, when he went over to wool rugs. His health has deteriorated over the years and for the past few weeks he had been very seriously ill. He died on March 17th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Luker.

### Private John William Roylance, 1/5th Manchester Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. W. Roylance, of Atherton, near Manchester, which occurred on March 31st, after a very brief illness.

From his enlistment in August, 1914, he served until his discharge in October, 1915. He was wounded at the Dardanelles in May of that year and came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1917. He trained first as a mat-maker and basket-maker, and followed these crafts for many years. Then in December, 1943, he started work in industry and continued at this until February, 1952. He then went on to string bags for our Stores and was employed on this work until shortly before his death.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Roylance and her family.

### Births

FLEISIG.—On March 20th, to the wife of D. D. Fleisig, of Orpington, a third son—Roger Dennis.

HARRIS.—On March 7th, to the wife of J. S. Harris, of Caversham, Reading, a son—Duncan John Stuart.

### Marriages

JONES—HEFFER.—On March 25th, F. L. Jones, of Northfield, Birmingham, to Miss Mary Heffer.

JUBB—WAITE.—On April 12th, B. Jubb, of Farnborough, Kent, to Miss Waite.

SMITH—EAGERS.—On March 29th, D. W. Smith, of Tolladine, to Miss Ruth Eagers.

### Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

BARTON.—To T. Barton, of Scalby, near Scarborough, whose mother has died at the age of 86.

HURLL.—To A. E. Hurl, of Ovingdean, whose father died suddenly in hospital on March 23rd. He was 83.

PARMENTER.—To D. Parmenter, of Brighton, whose mother has died in hospital after a long illness.

TAYLOR.—To H. Taylor, of Winton, Bourne-mouth, whose wife died in hospital on March 29th.

WHITE.—To C. White, of Melpash, near Bridport, whose wife died during the night of March 25th.

### Ruby Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. Dennick, of Bengeworth, Evesham, April 2nd. Congratulations.

### New Grandchildren—

for H. Hurst, of Bakewell; F. Mears, of Beeston; W. Nichols, of Colindale; H. E. Hills, of Devizes; D. Owens, of Colwyn Bay; E. Oxborough, of Newtown, Great Yarmouth; A. Dembenski, of Cheltenham; and G. J. Maskell, of Hunmanby.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 459—VOLUME XLII

MAY, 1958

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**H**AVE you ever tied a knot in your handkerchief to remind you of something, then forgotten what the thing was? I have a better idea. I write the reminder note on a little piece of Braille paper and fold it up and put it in my button-hole. Someone is almost sure to ask me what it is, and there you are. If nobody asks me, perhaps a bit of Braille paper tickles my chin.

I think blindness encourages a good memory, though in my case this does not extend to casual unconnected things like telephone numbers or appointments suddenly made.

I have mentioned these little Braille notes of mine before, but will repeat myself because they are of such great use to me. I have a small Braille slate, about the size of a playing card, on which I can write with a stylus some five or six words on separate lines, each word being seven letters or characters long. It is surprising how much information can be put into this small compass if the notes are thought out and if your own system of shorthand is used. It is a simple matter to write a note or a series of notes for a meeting, agenda or a speech, and I would not be without my slate for anything. It is for me the equivalent of a notebook and pencil. It has occurred to me, for the sake of the newer St. Dunstaners, to repeat some encouragement I have given in the past to the older generation in regard to Braille. It was my experience, long ago when I was first blinded, that I was a little shy in using Braille and perhaps also a little lazy about perfecting it. So it was some years before I became proficient in its use for reading and writing. Nothing has, however, repaid me so well for the effort I later made. I find writing Braille of use not only for note-making, but also for writing articles and memos when, for example, I am travelling or during a weekend when I am away from my office. For example, I am writing these notes on Sunday afternoon, sitting in the sun in my garden—the first occasion this year which has been warm enough for this pleasant occupation. I use for the purpose a Banks Portable Tape Writer. This is a small machine which works on the principle of the familiar shorthand machine.

I also read Braille with considerable ease and great pleasure. I do not say this for any reason, except to encourage others to plod away and perfect their Braille. It is really well worth while.

Another thing that must be steadfastly pursued is getting about alone. It is difficult for some to start and one can get out of the habit. I know many blind men who get about in a quite remarkable way, walking down the middle of the path, pavement or corridor, without apparent difficulty. I also know some who have not yet started to move about alone or have given it up. I strongly urge all who can walk alone to do so, even if they are getting a bit older. It makes an enormous difference to one's independence.

IAN FRASER.



## The Derby Sweepstake

The Draw for the Derby Sweepstake took place at the London Club on the evening of Thursday, May 29th. Publication of the printed REVIEW has been held up to include the result of the Draw, which is given below.

All those drawing horses have also been notified by post.

Horse	Name	Ticket No.
Alcide	J. BUTLER, Rosslare Harbour	1448
Alberta Blue	G. A. JOLLY, Ovingdean	2652
Alberta Pride	A. J. JONES, Penrhyndeudraeth	206
Amerigo	E. W. SAVAGE, Carshalton	1193
Arctic Gittell	H. COLVILLE, Berkhamsted	293
Bald Eagle	R. WHITE, Kings Lynn	1755
Baroco II	T. W. WALTER, Gillingham	592
Boccaccio	W. CHAPMAN, Dagenham	1026
Crystal Bay	J. MARTIN, W.11	187
Currito	C. J. PENNELLS, Brighton	2662
Elisha	C. McCALPIN, Grays	2959
Guersillus	A. A. GEMMELL, Southampton	391
Hard Ridden	C. J. PENNELLS, Brighton	2665
Les Foulons	H. GOVER, Leigh-on-Sea	557
The Magi	A. G. LOVERIDGE, Warehorne	3020
Mahu	T. A. HAROLD, Romford	357
Midlander	H. H. WELLS, Leicester	2160
Miner's Lamp	J. DIXON, Abbots Langley	159
Nagami	G. FISK, Colchester	1729
Noelcor II	H. ALLSOP, Smethwick	2859
Paddy's Point	F. RALPH, Ovingdean	2635
Paridel	E. STRAND, Pearson House	705
Trimmer	J. PEEL, Odsal, Bradford	204
Veronese	G. B. PRIEST, Birmingham	753
Wallaby II	J. FRANCIS, Hastings	551
Zarak	C. A. LUKER, Hampton	900
The Field	H. POTTS, Harrogate	2970

The Draw was made by Messrs. W. Harding and S. Lambert.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Emerson, have only lived in Leigh, Reigate, for the past six months but they have been readily accepted by the villagers. Surrey is having a "Tidiest Village" Competition, and Leigh has entered—our St. Dunstaner and his wife have been asked to serve on the Committee.

## St. Dunstaner Saves Neighbour in Fire Drama

John Hughes, of Rock Ferry, a member of the Liverpool Club, was the hero of a fire rescue recently. Our St. Dunstaner found his next door neighbour, 53 years old Mrs. Evans, with her clothing ablaze and he made a gallant attempt to save her, in the course of which he received burns to his own hands. Speaking to the *Liverpool Echo*, Mr. Hughes said: "Mrs. Evans was naturally panic-stricken, but the only way I could stop her was to trip her up and throw her to the ground. While I stripped off her blazing clothing, I shouted to my wife to bring a carpet. I rolled Mrs. Evans in it and my wife telephoned for an ambulance."

As we go to press we learn that Mrs. Evans' condition is fair.

## From Miss Morris and Mr. Banks

At the Windsor Reunion I was presented by Joe Gimber with the most wonderful wireless and cheque from you all. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your gift; it's hard to believe but I had not got a wireless, so you can imagine what pleasure your gift is giving me.

My years with you have been the happiest of my life, and I felt very sad when my time came to retire. However, as I am going to live in Brighton, I shall not lose touch with you and hope to meet you from time to time.

SISTER MORRIS.

I would like, through the *Review*, to thank all St. Dunstaners everywhere who have so generously contributed to my presentation, which took the form of a chiming clock and a cheque. My wife and I hope to spend the latter in taking a holiday.

I also wish to thank my St. Dunstaner friends who wrote sending their good wishes for my retirement. I appreciate their kind thought very much indeed, and am sorry that it is not possible for me to answer each letter individually.

I take this opportunity of wishing all St. Dunstaners good health and happiness in the future.

LESLIE BANKS.

## Thanksgiving

*I thank the gods who make amends,  
They took my sight, but gave me friends.*  
H. N. SYMES.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—As champions of the London Business Houses League, West Central Section, our team took part in the play-off for the De La Rue Cup at G.P.O. Headquarters on April 2nd and finished third. Of the twelve teams taking part, only three had plus scores (I.M.P.s).

## St. Dunstaner's Wife Injured at Stock Exchange Walk

As onlookers were watching the competitors pass through Crawley in the London to Brighton Stock Exchange Walk on May 17th, an oak figure-head of St. George outside the George Hotel, crashed down and injured Mrs. Archie Brown, whose husband was taking part in the Walk. Mrs. Brown was severely bruised. After hospital treatment an ambulance took her back to London and she insisted on going to her own home.

## Queen Mother Makes Legion Presentation to Sir Ian and Lady Fraser

To mark the occasion of Sir Ian Fraser's retirement from the office of National President of the British Legion, a gift of a Regency dining table has been made by the British Legion [Women's Sections throughout the United Kingdom and on May 8th, in Belfast, the official presentation to Sir Ian was made by Her Majesty the Queen Mother. Her Majesty handed to Sir Ian a perfect model of the actual table, and presented to Lady Fraser a diamond brooch, a joint gift from more than 3,000 branches of the Women's Section.

Sir Ian, in his reply, spoke of the Queen Mother as "setting a shining example of service to Queen and country."

## Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. G. Chapman, of Scaldwell, May 21st. Many congratulations.

## Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Worthington, of Kings Norton, May 13th. Congratulations.

## New Appointment

The Rev. C. G. S. Oliver has been appointed Rector of Wrabness, near Manningtree, Essex, and was inducted into his new living by the Bishop of Colchester on May 27th.

## The Reunions

On Wednesday, April 16th, the Scottish Reunion was held at Edinburgh, Mr. D. G. Hopewell, a member of St. Dunstan's Council, presiding. At this well-attended meeting, there was a happy family atmosphere. Miss Midgley accompanied Mr. Wills on her first visit to a Scottish Reunion.

Mr. Hopewell again presided at Newcastle on Friday, April 18th, and this again was a most successful Reunion. During the afternoon, our old friend Mr. Fred Lawton, entertained the guests with his guitar and soon had them singing popular songs, and after the speeches, Mr. F. Mowtell treated the company to a string of "Geordie" jokes, which highly amused everyone.

Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., our President, with Lady Pearson, was present at the Leeds Reunion on April 19th, and Mr. Lloyds also attended this very large party. During the afternoon, Miss Pease organised games and dancing, with the usual attractive prizes.

Maidstone, on Friday, May 2nd, was a smaller but no less enjoyable Reunion, presided over by Mr. Hopewell, who welcomed the men from Kent, and the Kentish men, as he put it. Only two of the expected guests did not arrive.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser were present at the Irish meetings—Belfast, on May 8th and Dublin, on the following day.

Speaking at Belfast, Sir Ian said he had often speculated as to whether it was better to go blind suddenly on the battlefield or slowly over the years. It was hard to give a final answer for much depended on circumstances and temperament, but he had seen much suffering where the light of day had failed slowly, and quick and easy re-adjustment where blindness had been sudden and absolute. "Moreover," he added, "the fear of blindness is worse than blindness itself."

## Unusual Gift

"G.F." writes to the Chairman:

"I have just completed six weeks' denial of smoking and drinking and the money saved amounts to £3 3s. 0d. approx., so as there is no point in doing it without making some contribution, I have pleasure in sending you this small sum for the benefit of your blind boys, for whom I now have a natural sympathy."



## The National Library for the Blind

Years ago, Braille books were scarce and expensive, and appreciating this, Miss Martha Arnold, who was blind herself, and her friend, Miss C. C. Howden (later Mrs. Dow), with a collection of forty volumes, started a lending library in one room in a house in Hampstead, in 1882, for a penny a week. It was a great success and the demand for books grew so rapidly that not only the room but the house became too small, so the Library was moved to Bayswater in 1904; these premises also soon became inadequate, so a move was made to 18 Tufton Street, Westminster, where the Library quickly filled the whole block, and now has its frontage in Great Smith Street.

In 1917, the Salford and Manchester Blind Aid Society started a Library for the North, but handed their collection of books to the N.L.B., who now have over 300,000 volumes, plus Moon and music.

Miss Arnold taught her sighted friend Braille, and she was the first transcriber, and to-day the Library has 600 transcribers who learn Braille by correspondence and work at home. They are all voluntary and have some choice in the selection of books, and produce about four volumes each year. The pages are proof-read by blind proof-readers, varnished and bound at the Library's own binding department. The Library also employs many blind copyists.

Each of the Library's readers is dealt with individually and in addition to Great Britain, books are sent to thirty-five nations, and something like four tons of Braille is handled each day at Great Smith Street, while the Northern Branch caters for eight counties in the North.

It is the National Library which provides the Deaf-Blind with their chief entertainment, their travels and adventure, their comedy and tragedy, and during our Deaf Reunion, we visited the Library and met some of our friends.

G. FALLOWFIELD.

## Grandfathers

R. Horner, of Holmfirth, and new grandchildren for F. J. Mears, of Chilwell, Nottingham; S. Sephton, of St. Helens; E. R. Smith, of Bournemouth; A. Anderson, of Angus (a fifth grandson—Marris, in Canada, has had a boy); H. Payne, of Grangetown, Cardiff (the wife of his youngest son has had a daughter).

## Liverpool Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool Club was held on Saturday, April 26th, when all members, accompanied by their wives or escorts, were present. The President, Capt. E. Halloway, opened the meeting with a survey of the Club's activities over the past year, and expressed his delight with the wonderful enthusiasm shown by members, and the ready and whole-hearted support given to the various enterprises conducted by the Club. He also had a special word of thanks for the ladies, who not only managed our catering, but were always willing to assist in every way possible. He went on to refer to the grand work done by Mr. Harry Formstone, who ever since the inception of the Club, had been responsible for organising our games and competitions, and extended to him the sincere thanks of all for the valuable service so willingly given.

The retiring Chairman, Mr. J. Blakeley, after endorsing Capt. Halloway's remarks, added his own personal thanks for the support he had received during his term of office.

The Statement of Accounts was then read and unanimously agreed to.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was made by ballot and resulted as follows:

*President*: Capt. E. Halloway. *Chairman*: W. Simpson. *Vice-Chairman*: Mrs. Violet Formstone. *Hon. Secretary*: T. Milner and *Hon. Treasurer*: T. Kinder.

The proceedings having been concluded, we settled down to enjoy tea and refreshments.

T. MILNER.

## Sutton Club Notes

At a well-attended meeting on Saturday, May 3rd, we collected the names of members and their families who wish to go on our outing to Bognor on Saturday, July 12th.

If there are any members who were not present at either of our last two meetings and who would like to go on the outing, will they please notify Mr. Ted Dudley at 74 Waddon Court Road, Croydon, Surrey, without delay. Definite numbers must be known as soon as possible so that any vacant seats may be offered to friends and relations.

The next meeting of the Club is on Saturday, May 31st.

## The Dawn Chorus

Around this period of the year, one is constantly reminded of the song of the birds by the National press, B.B.C. nature programmes, and sufferers from insomnia.

I feel there is one Dawn Chorus which has been sadly neglected, a chorus which carries on through the whole year, reaching its peak volume from early June to late September.

This is the chorus of Ovingdean, consisting of the early morning calls of the Greater and Lesser St. Dunstaner, and other species.

At about 6.30 a.m. one is aroused by the welcome cry of the *Orderlius Corridoricus*, which passes from nest to nest with a cry of "Tea!" followed by a separate note applicable to the occupant of the nest, i.e. Bill, Charlie, or the particular group.

Shortly afterwards, muffled sounds are heard of the Lesser Broadcaster with "News Summaries" and "Morning Music." The *Orderlius Corridoricus* flits around a second time with a plaintive cry of "Wanna Seconcup." By this time, stirrings are heard in many nests, of clumping of shoes, banging of locker lids, and ringings of sundry utensils.

The chorus is now reaching its peak. The restless Traineeicus and Peranium, also the Holidayium, are moving hither and thither to the washing pools, some with shrill whistles, others with coughs, known as "Too-Muchium Faggums," others with sloppings of loose sandals.

Within the walls of the bathing places, noise is terrific. Some of the more active birds are splashing and bubbling within the smaller cubicles, raising a song on high, usually a sentimental or, maybe even a mating call, swearing everlasting devotion to the female species.

By the time the hour is 7.45, all is at high peak. From the boot rooms come the whirrings of the *Razor Electricoem*; from the nesting places, cries of "Where's my blue-lined shirt?" or "Orderly, are these socks a pair?"

As the earphones rasp and squeak within the nesting places, the tramp is heard of the fully clad St. Dunstaner passing down the stairway to the Lounge, and the full cry is heard of "That you, Freddie?" or "Where are you, Nobby?" or even the most usual cry within the walls, "Who's that?"

Eight-thirty finds the humming chorus within the Lounge, gradually reaching a multi-fortissimo; telephone bells join in, the female of the species cry out, "Letter for you, Harry," and the full Dawn Chorus finishes with a clanging bell and a dying of song in a shuffling crocodile entering to do its best with the food tables.

There is just one thing missing. Is it your voice or sound from the Dawn Chorus of Ovingdean?

JOHN A. MUDGE.

## The Muffled Drums' Reunion

The 8th May found us all at Ovingdean, or what is left of us, and the next day we went to the N.L.B. This visit is described elsewhere. After our visit, we were entertained to lunch by our Secretary, Mr. A. D. Lloyds. Mr. Ferguson, of our Country Life Department, was also present. "Joe" (Mr. Jordan), in a few carefully chosen words, thanked Mr. Lloyds, who replying said he had thoroughly enjoyed being with us.

Saturday morning we were entertained by His Worship the Mayor at Worthing Town Hall. I was told Joe looked a treat dressed as a Mayor! On this occasion Wally Thomas spoke and thanked the Mayor. Our thanks are also extended to Charles Cooper, who brought about our visit to Worthing. The afternoon found us on a drive to Bramber for tea, and the evening Dominoes proved to be most exciting for three of us had won two games each when Cliff Stockwell won three, there were two left to play. Joe won these to grab the prize on a photo finish! Sunday found us at Pearson House for tea, supper and more dominoes. Monday we met Mr. C. D. Wills, with the North and South Welfare Officers and the evening saw us at Stroud's for our Welfare Dinner as usual, which was thoroughly enjoyed, after which Joe thanked the Commandant, Matron and staff for providing such an interesting and enjoyable week-end. Replying, the Commandant said the Reunion had many uses, since we were enabled to meet so many important people personally.

On Tuesday morning we met Sir Neville and Lady Pearson who, being able to do the manual alphabet, went round for a chat with each man.

A MUFFLED DRUM.



## Talking Book Library

### The Month's Records

Writing here with the sun in my face and confusion in my mind regarding the six titles appended below, I apologise beforehand for being even vaguer than usual this lovely month of May.

"Round the World with Galathea," by Hakon Mielche, reader Timothy Brinton, is an account of an expedition to study oceanography. I don't know what that means, but it is a kind of underwater survey and natural history quest. It is fascinating and full of interest, besides being packed with entertaining diversions. *Cat. No. 994.*

"Traveller's Prelude," by Freya Stark, reader Alvar Lidell, is an account of the author's early days prior to her explorative world travels. Flitting between Devon, London and Italy, she learnt and suffered much in her childhood and early womanhood. Her mother's protégé, Mario, who married her sister, proved the main fly in her early ointment, together with her parents' estrangement. Arabic, mountaineering and olive growing serve her as a springboard for more extensive travels. *Cat. No. 997.*

"Mr. Sparrow," by John Montgomery, reader Robin Holmes, is a pleasant little story of a misfit bank clerk in Sussex. He discovers beauty roaming the county in pony and trap, and in addition he finds him an attractive widow. The pony is sold for slaughter or worse on its owner's death, and mild choirmaster Sparrow turns avenging angel. Amusing, rather poignant, and good reading. *Cat. No. 35.*

"Love the Winner," by Catherine Page, reader Peter Fettes, is the story of a lovely young girl, accustomed to luxury, faced upon the death of her father, by poverty. Unqualified for any job and with a pampered mother to support, she decides her only course is to vamp a Yankee millionaire neighbour. Obviously the title precludes any such happening—but how?—that I can safely leave to you. *Cat. No. 36.*

"The Temptation of Roger Herriott," by E. Newhouse, reader John de Manio, is set in the U.S.A., and here is the vagueness referred to earlier. Music Director in some big Foundation, Roger makes a violin award against the wishes of his Board. He is a poor man, his job is in jeopardy, he persists. At the same time he has to act as mediator between his wife and father-in-law,

and one of the latter's ladies. The poor bloke dreams blissfully of his days fighting the Japs, but frankly, for the life of me, I cannot recall the outcome. *Cat. No. 41.*

"The Five Arches," by George Blake, reader Peter Fettes, is an absorbing story of the various branches of a Glasgow family. A Dock Superintendent retired from the Far East, comes back to settle in Glasgow, gives a party to all his relatives, finds a house and settles by the Clyde. The importunities of some of his poverty stricken relatives, plus disaster at his house, persuade him to go East again, where war overtakes him. He survives, as does his favourite niece, and there is a great re-union on the Clyde. The story is not as sugary as I make it sound, in fact it is beautifully seasoned, and I recommend it to any and every ear. *Cat. No. 48.*

"Living like a Lord," by J. Godley, reader Arthur Bush, was also released. *Cat. No. 996.*

NELSON.

### CORRECTION

The Catalogue Number of "The Overloaded Ark," by Gerald M. Durrell, should be Cat. No. 577 and not 557 as given in last month's printed REVIEW.

## From All Quarters

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Hendon Chamber of Commerce, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meleson were elected to the Executive Committee of the Chamber. Our St. Dunstaner has a confectioner's and tobacconist's business in Hendon.

★ ★ ★

On March 21st, at a formal presentation, R. L. Pettipher, of Coventry, was given a chiming clock by the West Midland Gas Board, in recognition of twenty-five years' service with the Board.

★ ★ ★

George Reed, of Farnborough, has been elected Chairman of the Aldershot and District Branch of the British Limbless and Ex-Servicemen's Association. Mr. Reed is a skilled ventriloquist and he has given many performances in aid of BLESMA and other deserving causes.

★ ★ ★

Miss Doel, who was our Welfare Visitor for the Lancashire area until she resigned two years ago, is now Councillor Doel, of the Windermere Urban District Council.

## Family News

Glenda Harris, Stoneleigh, who is 15, has passed her examination at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, for Speech and Drama, Grade 4A.

★ ★ ★

Bobby Cashmore, Selly Oak, has passed his Grade I music examination with distinction. His music teacher is Miss Marjorie Jones, L.R.A.M., who is herself totally blind.

★ ★ ★

Geoffrey Pearce, Hendon, at Wembley Music Festival was first in the baritone class, winning a cup, and first in the bass class, for which he received a token.

★ ★ ★

Edward Hindle, son of our late St. Dunstaner, E. Hindle, of Salford, at 14, is captain of his School Rugby Team. In the semi-final of Salford District Schools Cup, he scored 11 points to win the match.

★ ★ ★

Harold Stanley Payne, fourth son of H. Payne, of Grangetown, Cardiff, who emigrated to Tasmania in November, 1955, has been accepted at Hobart University, Tasmania, for three years on a Degree Course in Art and English.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Thomas Peters, Liverpool, to Mary Spendlove, on May 3rd.

Edward Branson, Northampton, to Kathleen Putnam, on May 3rd.

Dennis Lea, Odsal, Bradford, to Jean May Andrews, on March 22nd.

James Thomas Ashe, B.Sc., Lancing, to Margaret Dora Jones.

Violet Woodcock, Rickling, Saffron Walden, on May 6th to H. James Coxall.

## Births

BLACKMORE.—On May 4th, to the wife of P. Blackmore, of Canton, Cardiff, a daughter—Ruth.

CORRIGAN.—On April 7th, to the wife of J. Corrigan, of York, a daughter—Kim.

McCARTNEY.—On April 29th, to the wife of H. McCartney, of Belfast, a son.

MOONEY.—On May 12th, to the wife of J. W. Mooney, of Oldham, a son.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

IRVINE.—To J. Irvine, of Maryhill, Glasgow, whose wife died on May 16th.

LAKER.—To E. J. Laker, of Haverhill, Suffolk, whose father has died at the age of 94.

PATERSON.—To Margaret Paterson, of Chesington, Surrey, whose father died suddenly on April 13th. He was in his 80th year.

SALTER.—To T. W. Salter, of Lavender Hill, S.W.11, whose father died very suddenly at Eastertide. He was 81.

WORGAN.—To G. Worgan, of Blakeney, Glos., who lost his wife on April 29th.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Wright, widow of our late St. Dunstaner, A. Wright, of Liverpool.

## Personal

Sister Guinan, who left St. Dunstan's, Ovingdean, at the end of April, sends the following message to all St. Dunstaners.

"During my eight years at St. Dunstan's, it has been my great pleasure to meet many St. Dunstaners. I wish to send my sincere good wishes for your future well-being to you all."

## "In Memory" (continued from page 8.)

### Signaller John William Gill, Royal Garrison Artillery

We record with deep regret the death of J. W. Gill, of Rottingdean, which occurred at his home on May 16th.

He served in the First World War but did not come to us until July, 1945, when he trained in wool rug making and on string bags. His health, however, was never good and he could not follow either craft. He had been frequently in our Homes for periods of convalescence, but of late his health had deteriorated rapidly.

He leaves a widow and grown up family, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Corporal Raymond Farnsworth, R.E.M.E.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Raymond Farnsworth, of Guiseley, at the early age of 25.

He served from November, 1953 to 1955, but only came to us in September, 1956. His poor health forbade any training but he took great pleasure in his garden and greenhouse.

He died in the Duke of York's Nursing Home, Bradford, on May 18th, leaving a young widow and baby daughter, to whom our deep sympathy goes.



## “In Memory”

### Rifleman Frederick Paul Fishwick, *5th South Lancashire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of F. P. Fishwick, of St. Helens. He was 63. Enlisting in October, 1915, he was wounded at Ypres in August, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's a few months later. For some ten years he had a boot-repairing shop, but his health had not been good for a long time, and on April 26th he came to Pearson House. He was taken ill there and he died on May 7th. Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

### Private Frederick Charles Goodwin, *Durham Light Infantry*

We record with deep regret the death of F. C. Goodwin, of Withernsea, at the age of 82. He served from May, 1915, until June, 1919, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until January, 1936, when his age and state of health prevented any training. We send our deep sympathy to Mrs. Goodwin and her family.

### Leading Seaman Arthur John Holland, *Royal Navy*

We record with deep regret the death of A. J. Holland, of Pearson House, at the age of 80. He lost his sight while serving with the Royal Navy in H.M.S. Pembroke, and when he came to St. Dunstan's in June, 1919, he took training in farming. He worked most successfully as a market gardener, and for a time kept poultry, too. He gave up his market garden in 1940, when he lost his wife, and in 1948 he became a permanent resident at Pearson House, where he died on April 24th. Our deep sympathy is sent to his relatives, and particularly to his nephew who, with his family, was a frequent visitor to his uncle at Pearson House.

### Pioneer Michael McGovern, *Royal Engineers*

With deep regret we record the death of M. McGovern, of Doogary, Co. Cavan, Eire. He was 84. He served in the 1914-1918 war but did not come to us until March, 1947, when his age prevented him from taking any training. His health had been poor for the last two or three years and he died in the County Medical Hospital, Cavan County, on May 8th. He was a single man and he left no relatives.

### George Robinson, *Northumberland Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of G. Robinson, of Middlesbrough, at the age of 73. He enlisted in September, 1914, and was discharged in August, 1918, but he did not come under St. Dunstan's care until April, 1951. Because of his age he could not take up training. His health had been very poor for the past year.

### Private John Power, *Labour Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Power, who had been a resident at Pearson House since 1953. Discharged from the Army in December, 1917, he came to us in September, 1937, and trained as a basket-maker. He lived first in Birkenhead with his sisters, and became well-known for his baskets locally. From 1948 until 1953, he lived in Moreton, Wirral. He had been in poor health for some time and he died in the Royal Sussex County Hospital on April 24th. Our sincere sympathy is offered to his relatives.

### Private Alfred George Smith, *Worcestershire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. G. Smith, of Great Yarmouth, at the age of 64. Although he served in 1914-1918, it was not until February, 1956, that he came to us, and training was out of the question owing to his health. This began to deteriorate noticeably the following year, and last March he was admitted to hospital, but he asked to go home and he died there on May 1st. He suffered a great deal, but he found great happiness in the comradeship of St. Dunstan's. To Mrs. Smith and her son and daughter our deep sympathy is sent.

### Rifleman William Cartledge Smith, *18th King's Royal Rifles*

With deep regret we record the death of W. C. Smith, of Melbourne, Derbyshire. Wounded at Flers in September, 1916, he came to St. Dunstan's the following year and trained as a mat and basket-maker. He had his own shop and also supplied goods for our stores; he was, in fact, still working at baskets up to the time of his death. He had been a keen member of the British Legion since 1927.

He was a widower, and our deep sympathy goes out to his only son.

### Corporal Walter William Watkins, *King's Royal Rifle Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. W. Watkins, of Sidcup. He was 72. He served in the First World War but did not come to us until February, 1951, and he was then unable to take up training of any kind. After an illness of three weeks, he died in Bexleyheath and Welling Hospital on April 12th. Our deep sympathy goes out to his daughter and niece.

*[continued at foot of previous page]*

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## Sir Ian Says Farewell to the British Legion

SIR Ian Fraser retired at Whitsuntide from the Presidency of the British Legion after holding this office for eleven years.

In view of the friendly connection between St. Dunstan's and the British Legion, and of Sir Ian's long tenure of office, we think that extracts from his last address to Conference will interest St. Dunstaners.

After thanking his fellow Officers and Members for their co-operation and friendliness over many years, Sir Ian had a particularly warm word for the women of the Legion. "We must nourish, comfort and embrace them," he said, amid laughter.

Sir Ian then went on, "Before I give you some statistics, I will report that recently a Civil Servant in a remote territory informed his bosses in London that drunkenness had decreased by 50 per cent. in his area. This interested Whitehall so much that they asked for further particulars and they were told that there were two Europeans in the district and that one of them had died (laughter)." "This shows you how accurate and yet misleading statistics can be. Now, however I will give you some figures that are accurate and certainly not misleading."

Sir Ian then gave what he termed some "notable figures" about membership. The paid-up membership was 600,000, to which should be added 205,000 members of the Women's Section. The Legion figure was twice as high as that for the similar period after the First War, and it should be borne in mind they were losing by death 20,000 of their membership each year.

Sir Ian said, "I have taken a sample of the Legion membership from 100 branches embracing 33,000 members, and this shows that 54 per cent. served in the Second World War, 34 per cent. in the '14-18 war, 4 per cent. in both wars, and 8 per cent. are National Servicemen who have served since 1945.

"More of the younger men are coming into the Legion. Some of our councils and committees are composed of First War men, perhaps that is inevitable in view of the experience they can bring to bear. But now the younger men are predominating I would urge you to consider electing more men who have served in the Second World War... The future of the Legion depends on the extent to which the younger man takes over these places."

The Poppy Day figure had passed the million mark for the fourth time and stood at £1,023,106—and there was more to come. Poppy Day, he said, was the largest voluntary collection in the land and it was with the help of these generous donations from the public that they had been able to spend more than £1 million relieving permanent and temporary distress among ex-Service people.



No doubt, said Sir Ian, they had heard a man say he did not want charity—he wanted justice. While he might not refuse help, undoubtedly he felt it, and sometimes very strongly. Perhaps he disliked having to ask for it, or to accept it much as he needed it. Or perhaps the person on the other side of the table had asked searching questions or had given an impression of condescension.

“I am glad,” he said, “that it has been the tradition in the Legion to help people privately, unostentatiously and sympathetically. Let us be sure that every one of our Service committees bear this good tradition in mind and nourish it. We are all dependent one upon the other, and it is a good thing to be able to give help and to receive it with grace.”

Should voluntary agencies be abolished and the work they do be taken over by the State?

“This would be a profound mistake,” said Sir Ian, “The Welfare State has in fact taken over many functions previously exercised by voluntary bodies, but there is still room and need for the enterprise, initiative and experiment which voluntary enterprise has given us in the past, and can continue to give in the future.

“I think it is true to say that in the case of every service now conducted by the State or local authorities, the trail was first blazed by voluntary agencies, such as the churches, the old friendly societies and, in more recent decades, by such organisations as the British Legion, St. Dunstan's and S.S.A.F.A. Moreover, it is often possible for the voluntary agency to get very near to the individual's needs, to know him personally, and to fill in gaps which must inevitably arise in any Whitehall or Town Hall scheme.”

Unlike some countries, notably the U.S.A. and France, in England there was only one British Legion instead of one ex-Service organisation on the right and another on the left of politics. The Legion had never supported or opposed any Government or candidate in the political field, but like the Irishman, was “agin all Governments” from time to time when they did not go as far as we would like in supporting the cause we had at heart.

“I feel sure the Legion will continue vigorously to persuade Government and Parliament to maintain those priorities and preferences for ex-Servicemen and women which are the custom of the country and which are, I think, a debt of honour. It is a good thing for Britain to have a movement which can be, and is, the forceful but nevertheless moderate voice of the ex-Serviceman and woman.”

Sir Ian then spoke of the needs of the older ex-Servicemen, quoting from Shakespeare's *Henry V* . . . “old men forget” . . . He said one thing they did not forget was their service days. Often they boasted about their experiences, which no one could confirm (laughter). It was true that one remembered the happier aspect and, speaking for himself, he could recall “the many times we have marched together, prayed together, and worked together for the cause we all have at heart.”

One of his last requests was that members increase the help they give to the older men in need (applause).

“Service in the Armed Forces of the Crown is a distinction, something which distinguished us from others who did not serve. We recognised that there were other jobs that had to be done in wartime but we were proud of the part we played in the Forces. We old soldiers, sailors and airmen might well emphasise our pride in our past service at a time when it is essential for the nation's well-being that voluntary recruiting for the Armed Forces should prosper.”

Concluding on a personal note, Sir Ian said, “I have been an undistinguished soldier and politician. Soldiers do not generally like politicians and that is all the more reason why I am grateful to you for your forbearance and loyalty during my term of office. If, in the future, there is any service I can render to the British Legion, I hope you will ask me. I shall continue to give my services to St. Dunstan's as its Chairman so long as I am wanted and shall remain in Parliament, I hope, for many years.

“From my place there I shall continue to espouse many good causes which are near to my heart, not least the well-being of my friends who have served in the Forces.”

## The Birthday Honours List

### Australian St. Dunstaner Honoured

J. S. Buckley, of Queensland, Australia, received the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours "for services to blinded ex-Servicemen and their dependents."

Jim Buckley was wounded at Messines in July, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's the same year. He was trained first as a shorthand typist then as a masseur, and has for many years now been in private practice as a physiotherapist. He does much good work for the Queensland Blinded Soldiers' Association and we send our congratulations to him on his well-earned honour.

### Member of St. Dunstan's Council becomes Companion of the Bath

The Ven. Archdeacon F. Darrell Bunt, O.B.E., M.A., R.N., Chaplain of the Fleet and a member of St. Dunstan's Council, whom many St. Dunstaners have met at Reunions, has been made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (C.B.).

★ ★ ★

Awards which will also be of interest to St. Dunstaners are that of the M.B.E. to Mr. G. A. Fleet, Personal Assistant to the President of the British Legion, and of the M.B.E. to Miss R. N. K. Thompson, until recently Head of the "Homes" Department of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

## The Derby Sweepstake

### All Records Broken

This year's Sweepstake has proved to be the biggest ever. With 3,113 tickets sold, the record of 3,008 in 1946 has been easily passed.

After deducting £25 15s. 0d. for printing and postage expenses, a sum of £363 7s. 6d. was left for division in accordance with the printed rules. The result of the Draw was published last month and the first three winners were:

1st. Hard Ridden.

C. J. Pennells, Brighton. £181 13s. 9d.

2nd. Paddy's Point.

F. Ralph, Ovingdean. £72 13s. 6d.

3rd. Nagami.

G. Fisk, Colchester. £36 6s. 9d.

There were six non-runners of the horses listed last month. The holders of the tickets for the remaining "Also-rans" each received £4 5s. 6d.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—The St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will take place at Ovingdean during the weekend of Saturday, November 15th. Will all bridge players who are interested and wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup competitions—namely, for Pairs and Teams of Four—send in their names to Mr. Bob Willis, at the London Club, before October 18th, at the same time giving the name of the partner they have arranged to play with. This will enable the Committee to make the Draw and ensure the smooth running of the competitions at Brighton. If I should have any single names sent in, I am afraid I cannot guarantee a partner, but I will do my best.

G. P. B.

### The Derby

The glorious 4th of June—Derby Day. A coach with 40 Club members and their escorts set off from the Club to a flying start. We soon arrived at Epsom Downs and took up our position right on the rails, and were shortly joined by our friends from Brighton. The first item on the card was to delve into the well stocked lunch boxes, with liquid refreshments to suit all tastes. Then to the important business of the day, winner spotting, and the constant procession to the bookies, some returning with pound notes, others with beautifully coloured bookies' cards, but all jubilantly optimistic. The weather was good, the course perfect, and the sport excellent.

After the last race we were quickly away, far quicker than some of our horses, to a good run home, with Bill Harding and his Skiffle boys leading the choruses. Within minutes of arriving at the Club Mrs. Willis had produced tea and biscuits.

Truly a great social occasion and a fitting way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the London Club.

Our sincere thanks must go to Mr. Bob Willis, whose efficient arrangements made everything run so smoothly, surely he was the most "Hard Ridden" man on the day, and of course a grateful word for Mrs. Willis.

P. ASHTON.

### Four St. Dunstaners Take Part in Stock Exchange London-Brighton Walk

On May 17th, at the invitation of the Stock Exchange Athletic Club, Billy Miller,



Archie Brown, Les Dennis and George Hewitt were in the line up of competitors who came under the starter's orders (Big Ben) at 7 a.m. for the annual London to Brighton walk.

All, with the exception of George Hewitt, had taken part in this race before, Archie Brown having done the journey five times, Billy Miller four and Les Dennis three. These four were in close attendance on each other for the first three miles, but on approaching Streatham Common Billy and Les pulled away, and at the "Swan and Sugar Loaf" Croydon, were together and some minutes in front of Archie and George. On reaching Coulsdon, Billy Miller had taken the lead from Les Dennis and at "The Chequers," Horley, the order was Miller, Dennis, Brown and Hewitt.

In spite of his age, Archie was doing well and George was making a good show at his first attempt at this distance.

Along the stretch of Handcross all four had their bad times, which were not helped by the unfavourable weather of a cold wind and plenty of rain, but their keenness carried them on and they were determined to finish the 53 miles 129 yards.

Leaving Dale Hill these four St. Dunstaners put their best foot forward (if they had a best foot) with the knowledge that there were no more hills to climb and only seven miles to go, so they continued along the road, passing Pyecombe, Patcham and Preston Park to reach the Aquarium with great credit.

Billy Miller was the first St. Dunstaner to finish and fifth in the actual race in the time of 9 hours 20 minutes 40 seconds, Les Dennis second in 10 hours 1 minute 20 seconds, third was Archie Brown in 10 hours 35 minutes 52 seconds, and fourth George Hewitt, his time being 10 hours 47 minutes 34 seconds, a good performance for the first time of making the journey.

All four had the consolation that they finished this trek from London in front of a number of Stock Exchange competitors.

At the reception held at the Hotel Metropole in the evening, Billy Miller received from R. C. Quick, Esq., C.B.E., the St. Dunstan's Cup, kindly presented by Bisgood, Bishop and Company. Les, Archie and George were awarded a tankard each.

Many thanks to our sporting escorts and good helpers.

## St. Dunstan's Seven Mile Championship Walk And Match With Metropolitan Police

Regents Park, Saturday, 3rd May, 1958

Order Finish	Club	Time	All.	H'p Time	Pos. in H'p
1. M. Neill	Met. P.	62-28	—	—	—
2. W. Miller	St. D's	62-41	Scr.	62-41	1
3. J. Clifton	Met. P.	64-01	—	—	—
4. L. Thomas	Met. P.	64-05	—	—	—
5. J. Brown	Met. P.	66-45	—	—	—
6. G. Hewitt	St. D's	66-55	2-30	64-25	2
7. P. Ansell	Met. P.	66-55	—	—	—
8. L. Dennis	St. D's	69-08	4-30	64-38	3
9. A. Brown	St. D's	71-17	3-30	67-47	4
10. L. Sloane	Met. P.	73-03	—	—	—
11. S. Tutton	St. D's	76-30	8-00	68-30	5
12. J. Holding	Met. P.	78-22	—	—	—
13. T. Gaygan	St. D's	80-20	8-30	71-50	6

Match Result:

Metropolitan Police 30 points.

St. Dunstan's 49 points.

## Five Mile Match

St. Dunstan's v. Pearl A.C. v. Erycinie

Regents Park, Saturday, 29th April, 1958

Order of Finish	Club	Time	All.	H'p Time	Pos. in H'p
1. W. Miller	St. D's	45-03	Scr.	45-03	1
2. G. Adams	Pearl	47-30	—	—	—
3. G. Taylor	Ery.	47-55	—	—	—
4. G. Hewitt	St. D's	47-59	1-00	46-59	2
5. A. Brown	St. D's	49-20	1-30	47-50	3
6. R. Deane	Ery.	49-45	—	—	—
7. E. Holt	Pearl	50-04	—	—	—
8. A. Dawe	Pearl	52-18	—	—	—
9. E. Archer	Ery.	53-32	—	—	—
10. S. Tutton	St. D's	53-35	4-00	49-35	4
11. R. Barton	Ery.	56-00	—	—	—
12. R. Larkin	Ery.	57-03	—	—	—
13. T. Gaygan	St. D's	57-31	4-00	53-31	5
14. D. Nye	Ery.	57-50	—	—	—
15. W. Hooker	Ery.	58-14	—	—	—

Match Result:

St. Dunstan's 10 points.

Pearl A.C. 17 points.

Erycinie 18 points.

## The Doubly Handicapped

From time to time some of our more severely disabled St. Dunstaners, such as the deaf, the handless, the chair-borne, and others, may have advice and comments on matters of mutual interest which may not be known to their companions and friends who are similarly handicapped.

The Editor is always very glad to consider suggestions and comments from doubly disabled St. Dunstaners which, through the medium of the REVIEW, might help their comrades.

## Braille, the Emancipator

Believing that what has been experienced is real, and anxious to reinforce Sir Ian's call to all St. Dunstaners who possibly can to learn braille, I am prompted to recount some of my own experiences and reactions as to what remains the most vital element in my physical blindness.

It was whilst still bedfast in hospital, with a chip on my shoulder and very little interest in life, that I was first introduced to braille by Miss Baimbrigge and what I thought of that lady during those early lessons is nobody's business. But to-day, forty years later, my gratitude to her is as profound and unbounded as on the day I passed my test.

Well do I remember reading my first fully contracted novel, "The Sowers," and its effect on my attitude towards the strange, dark world into which I had been suddenly plunged. This experience proved that the companionship of a good book could help to alleviate pain, render solitude desirable, and eliminate the fear of loneliness. The braille key had opened the door and illumined the darkness—so God had not entirely deserted me.

Slowly came the realisation that with a knowledge of braille, one could court the great minds, past and present, of men whose works and benefactions had contributed to the spread of knowledge and to the progress of mankind; and further, through the medium of recorded experiences one could share in the tragedy and comedy of life, journey to any part of the known world, and be present at far away events and scenes. Let me elucidate. I have just paid a visit to the Lebanon, home of so much Bible history where, among other things, I made the acquaintance of those fabulous cedars whose history dates back 2,600 B.C.; learned that it was really in Lebanon that Noah's Ark came to rest; and that the natives even offer to show tourists Noah's tomb. I also felt a little of the heat from the fire of nationalism which is sweeping the East, whilst the protagonists of East and West struggle for supremacy. All this I experienced without leaving the precincts of my own room.

Whilst I realise the inestimable value of the Talking Book, especially in particular cases, there must be times when it is inconvenient to have the machine working. Again

there are branches of literature—magazines, periodicals, etc., which do not get a recording. Therefore, I join forces with Sir Ian and strongly urge all St. Dunstaners who can to invest heavily in braille; sooner or later their accumulated interest will far out value any principal invested.

One has only to learn a little of the early history of the blind to appreciate the justice of the above title.

T. ROGERS.

## The British Legion Conference Presentations to Sir Ian and Lady Fraser

A highlight of the British Legion Conference at Whitsun was the presentation to Sir Ian Fraser of four Georgian silver candlesticks, and a cheque for the balance of the fund subscribed by branches, and a gift to Lady Fraser of a silver brooch.

There was great applause as the presentations were made by Major J. T. Spinks, Legion Chairman, and the Conference was delighted to hear Sir Ian say that he proposed, with the cheque for £2,000, to establish the Fraser (British Legion) Trust, which would be used to enable an orphan child or children of an ex-Serviceman, or the child or children of a totally disabled war-pensioner to derive more benefit from their education than they otherwise would.

Sir Ian, concluding, said, "I may have told the women at their Conference that I was a tough old guy who did not wear his heart on his sleeve. But it does not follow that I have not got a heart. I am deeply moved . . . I have enjoyed eleven happy years with you."

## Aldermen

At the annual meeting of the Stalybridge Town Council, on May 26th, H. White was elected Alderman for the ensuing six years. Mr. White was first elected to the Council in November, 1946, was defeated in 1950; re-elected in 1951, and has been there ever since.

★ ★ ★

Alderman F. W. E. L'Estrange Fawcett, of Stowmarket, has been re-elected for the County of East Suffolk.



## Talking Book Library

### The Last of the First Half

This column has a rough guide to seven books and an appendix of "also released."

"The Hidden River," by Storm Jameson, reader Norman Shelley, portrays an ex-Service Englishman visiting a French family who helped him during the war. The drama of a family split by suspicions of each other regarding collaboration involves him and disturbs the peace of the farm on the Loire. Two brothers, a dead cousin, an old uncle, and a separate aunt, indulge in a tremendous emotional tangle and, of course, there is a sweet little frippet to please the Englishman. *Cat. No. 43.*

"Desirée" by Annemarie Selinko, reader Andrea Troubridge, is the fascinating story of the girl who married Napoleon's Marshal Bernadotte and became Queen of Sweden. Convincingly told in the first person, the story makes Napoleon at home a figure of fantastic comic opera and the whole is quite absorbing. *Cat. No. 164.*

"The Way of an Eagle," by Ethel M. Dell, reader Robin Holmes, is enacted mainly in India except when the strong, dumb army types are on leave. The general's daughter is saved from a besieged frontier fort by the "eagle" and then follows much heart-ache and anguish of the good old strong, silent type. Why don't "furriners" like us? Read this and see. *Cat. No. 171.*

"Madame Curie," by E. Curie, reader Alvar Lidell, starts with Marie's childhood in Poland, goes with her through her struggles and heartbreaks to the climax of her lonely triumph. Her husband's tragic death marred the wonder of their discovery of radium. *Cat. No. 280.*

"Jalna," by Mazo de la Roche, reader Eric Gillett, is the first of a long series of "White-oaks" stories. This large country mansion is somewhere near Toronto in Canada, and the idiosyncrasies, triumphs, and vicissitudes of the large, interesting family are very entertaining. *Cat. No. 325.*

"Love in a Cold Climate," by Nancy Mitford, reader Andrea Troubridge, is a book essentially for the fair sex. Parties and society chatter, match-making and marchionesses. Flashes of humour give it some appeal for the male and Polly Hampton is quite a girl. *Cat. No. 367.*

"Thelma," by Marie Corelli, reader Laidman Browne, is the romance of a sweet Norwegian beauty and an English baronet. The baronet's yacht visits Thelma's fjord and the wooing begins. Thelma's father approves though he thinks Christians cissies and sticks to Odin himself. During the visit of the yacht there is much melodramatic incident in an atmosphere of pagan superstition to accompany the baronet's wooing. Back in London the slime and malice of Society leads to domestic misunderstanding, and Thelma flees back to her fjord where eventually her frantic husband locates her and the story ends on even keel. *Cat. No. 999.*

Also released were:

"The Lark shall sing," by Elizabeth Cadell, reader Andrea Troubridge. *Cat. No. 29.*

"The Colditz Story," by P. R. Reid, reader Norman Shelley. *Cat. No. 44.*

"The Sittaford Mystery," by Agatha Christie, reader Frederick Allen. *Cat. No. 179.*

"Merry Hall," by Beverley Nichols, reader Andrew Timothy. *Cat. No. 42.*

"NELSON."

## The Cardiff Club

The Annual Outing took place on Saturday, May 31st, to Hereford—Symonds Yat.

Dinner was served at the Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford. We were accompanied by our Visiting Sister, Miss Blebta, and Miss Ann Hodges, by special invitation. After a friendly chat and handshakes, we journeyed on to Symonds Yat.

Tea was served at Valdasso's Café. Photographs were taken and boat trips on the river were enjoyed.

Our homeward journey was merry and bright; everyone was satisfied and a real good day was brought to a close.

Our Club is held at the British Legion, Womanby Street, first Saturday in the month (omitting August).

A hearty welcome is extended to all St. Dunstaners in Cardiff and district.

ARTHUR LANE,  
Hon. Secretary.

## Tales of Ind

### The Babu

Broadly speaking, the word "Babu" in India means a clerical worker. In Bengal, it is the equivalent of our "Mister"—as, Mukerjee Babu, or Chatterjee Babu. In Government and military offices, he was quite a power, as he had a prodigious knowledge of regulations, etc., sometimes giving them a meaning never intended by the authorities (as my final story illustrates). Babu English is quite a language of its own and at times the phrasing is comical. The following are a few examples of letters written by Babus.

On a Saturday afternoon in the office of a large boot factory in Cawnpore, a solitary clerk remained to finish up some work. The postman arrived with the afternoon letters, which included an order for 500 pairs of ammunition boots from the Officer Commanding the Middlesex Regiment. Babu thought that it would bring him favour with his employers and show promptness if he replied at once. So he wrote:

"Honoured Sir, We acknowledge with thanks your Honour's esteemed order for 500 pairs Ammunition boots, B.T. We know, Sir, the male sex, we also know the female sex, but what, Sir, is the "Middlesex?"

Another time, a Babu wrote to his employers explaining his absence from the office:

"Honoured Sir, I regret to inform your Honour that I am unable to attend Office to-day, as the hand that rocks the cradle has kicked the bucket."

A clerk applying for a post, gave the following particulars of his family:

"Honoured Sir, I have six children. Three adults and three adulteresses."

I once received the following letter from a clerk (who only intended to begin with the usual polite Eastern phrase):

"Honoured Sir, Through your Honour's kindness, my wife has to-day given birth to a fine son."

A sergeant came to his O.C. and complained that his baby, born the previous afternoon, had received no milk ration for that day. The O.C. sent for his Head Clerk.

"Tell me, Babu, why did Sergeant Smith's baby not receive its ration of milk yesterday?" "Sir," said the clerk, "according to Army Regulations (India) Vol. 10 (Transport), par. 49, Appendix B, it is not permissible." "But what has transport to do

with milk?" asked the officer. "Sir," said the Babu, "here is the regulation," handing the officer A.R.I. Vol. 10, where the instructions are, "Troops disembarking after 12 noon must bring their unexpired portion of the day's ration with them."

DUNCAN McALPIN.

## Liverpool Club Notes

On the 31st May, the Club had their annual outing, leaving our headquarters—the British Legion, Leeces Street, Liverpool, at 9.30 a.m. We journeyed by coach to Grange-over-Sands, where an excellent lunch was served at the Rainbow Café—kept, incidentally, by the daughter of one of our St. Dunstaners. After lunch we proceeded on our way to Blackpool, where we had the pleasure of the company of Matron Davies to tea. We all know that Matron Davies loves to be among the boys. Incidentally, these notes are being written during my visit to Ovingdean, and it will be very gratifying to Miss Davies to know that many men from various parts of the country were making enquiries about her health. I told them, one and all, that she was as young and active as ever! We arrived back in Liverpool around 10 p.m., a tired—but happy—party. Everyone expressing their view that we had spent a very enjoyable day.

Now for the personal touch:

While at Ovingdean a St. Dunstaner, speaking to me, expressed the view that we should get some news in the REVIEW about our Home at Ovingdean. Please note, Mr. Editor. This has set me thinking. The staff, I know, as all other St. Dunstaners know, work so hard, and spare no effort to make your visit a joyous and memorable one. I think we all look on the staff and ourselves as being one big family. They may be a little out of fashion by *not* going on strike!

We in Liverpool have a very happy membership in our Club, and I know that there are quite a few St. Dunstaners in the vicinity of Liverpool who do not take advantage of joining the Club. We play domino matches, darts matches, and fortunately we can get details of the Home, and the good people who look after us when we go there, owing to the fact that our members are visiting at various times of the year. Now—why not join us? We meet every other Saturday from 3 p.m.



to 6 p.m. I, personally, am not on the 'phone, but a call to our worthy Secretary, Aintree 2747, any evening, will enable you to find out about the next meeting. Now, ladies! Bring your good men along—and *you* could enjoy a little gossip with the other men's wives. I can assure you it will do you both more good than doctor's medicine. We have members from as far afield as Warrington, St. Helen's, and the Wirral. I am sure they would not come such distances unless they enjoyed it. We will give you a welcome!

W. E. SIMPSON, *Chairman*.

### Miss P. E. Pease

It is with regret that we announce the retirement at the end of the month of Miss Phyllis Pease, whose association with St. Dunstan's as a part-time Welfare Visitor in Yorkshire has extended over the past twenty years. She has devoted much of her time to her work for St. Dunstan's and her kindly help over the years is deeply appreciated. We wish her a long and happy retirement and hope that our association with the Pease family will continue to be retained through the Reunions.

### The South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group

Messrs. T. W. Chamberlain and M. V. Aldridge spoke at the 18th Public Meeting of the South Norwood St. Dunstan's Group, on May 29th, which was again organised by St. Dunstan's very good friend, Miss M. Jameson, M.B.E.

The chairman, the Rev. Dennis Hawker, said that his special interest in St. Dunstan's dated from his Cambridge days when he had come to know the Rev. Michael Norman.

The guest-speaker, Mr. Godfrey Winn, dwelt on the courage and optimism he had found characteristic of blind people, making particular mention of Mr. Esmond Knight who had been a fellow patient of his in a Glasgow hospital during the Second World War.

Included in the programme was a Free Draw for the audience, the prize being a child's television chair made by St. Dunstaner W. Lacey.

Owing to the bus strike many had to walk a long way in the rain to attend the Meeting, but such was the interest created by the speakers that the audience left feeling glad they had ventured out—and the rain was still falling.

### From All Quarters

At the recent Blackburn Musical Festival, W. Griffiths, of Blackburn, came fourth in the Vocal Solo Class, receiving 163 marks, and at Lytham St. Annes' Musical Festival he won second prize for a baritone solo.

★ ★ ★

John Perfect, of Sunderland, is secretary of the local Archery Club. John is also a member of the Round Table.

★ ★ ★

H. Boorm, of Peterborough, gained a Second Class Certificate for singing at Peterborough Musical Festival with 83 marks out of a possible 100.

★ ★ ★

Bertie McConnell, of Bangor, N. Ireland, has been elected an Independent Councillor for Clifton Ward to serve on the Bangor Borough Council.

★ ★ ★

D. B. Elrod, of Norton, deputising for Commander R. C. B. Buckley, Appeals Organiser, presented the St. Dunstan's Darts League Cups and Prizes at Mansfield, and received a cheque for £220, on behalf of St. Dunstan's.

★ ★ ★

The life-saving club run by Walter Thornton, of Birmingham, in connection with his work at Bournville, has won the Affiliated Clubs (Men's) Challenge Shield of the Royal Life Saving Society for the fifth year in succession.

★ ★ ★

Maureen Lees has received a Certificate of Merit for a hand woven towel which she submitted for the War Pensioners Homecrafts Service Handicrafts Competition.

★ ★ ★

A. F. Bell, of Crookham Common, Newbury, caught a rainbow trout weighing 5½ pounds and a brown trout weighing 5½ pounds when on holiday at Chew Valley Lake, Somerset.

★ ★ ★

Miss Margery Barwick's book, "The Buried Life," whose hero is a man who has lost his sight in the war, has now been brailled and is in the National Library.

## Mr. H. Andrews

We have heard with deep regret of the sudden death of Mr. H. Andrews, until 1953 head of the Talking Book Department of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Mr. Andrews was in charge during the greater part of the years which saw the development of the Talking Book, and the great pleasure which blind people now obtain from it is largely attributable to his good work in those early days. Sir Ian Fraser says: "The success of the Talking Book was due to him more than to any other executive officer."

We express our deep sympathy to the members of Mr. Andrews' family and to Miss G. Ashton, Librarian of the Nuffield Talking Book Library, to whom, but for his untimely death, he was to have been married very shortly.

St. Dunstan's was represented at the funeral by Mr. Lloyds, and wreaths were sent on behalf of St. Dunstan's and personally by Sir Ian and Lady Fraser.

## St. Dunstan's Goods

### Purchase Tax Removed

In the Finance Bill, which gives legislative force to the Budget, the Purchase Tax generally was simplified and reduced. One of the results of the simplification was that shopping baskets and string bags were proposed to be subjected to a higher tax than before. This proposal was not aimed at baskets and bags as such, but was merely the result of reducing the number of categories and removing anomalies. Sir Ian Fraser, with the advice of Mr. S. C. Hall, Head of our Sales Department, made representations to the Government which have been successful in removing the Purchase Tax from these articles, and, indeed, from all other articles made by St. Dunstaners in their homes, by administrative means. This will enable St. Dunstan's to continue the most difficult task of selling these goods as they are sent in by St. Dunstaners.

## Thanks

I am sure that I am expressing the views of all who went with St. Dunstan's to this year's Derby in thanking the staff for the excellent arrangements that were made for our comfort. Special thanks should go to

Mrs. Comer and her staff for the packing and feeding arrangements. I, and I am sure everyone else who went, had a most enjoyable time, although we, on the whole, did not break the bookies. Once again, thanks to them all.

E. B. OXBOROUGH.

## Births

BLACKMORE.—To the wife of Shirley Blackmore, of Gosport, Hants., on May 8th, a son—Paul Stephen.

LEE.—To the wife of J. A. Lee, of Wakefield, on June 3rd, a daughter—Francesca.

## Marriage

McGUIRE—CARTER.—On June 11th, J. McGuire, of Coventry, to Mrs. D. L. Carter, a V.A.D. at Brighton.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out to the following:

BURDEN.—To W. W. Burden, of Saltdean, who has had a further bereavement by the death of his sister. He lost two brothers last year.

COLLINS.—To R. H. Collins, of Liverpool, whose brother, Arthur, has died.

HOWARTH.—To E. C. Howarth, of Upper Gornam, nr. Dudley, who has lost his mother.

## Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. H. Chadwick, of St. Helens, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 8th. Two days later, our St. Dunstaner celebrated his 78th birthday.

## Ruby Weddings

Congratulations, too, to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wainmann, of Bridlington, who had a Ruby Wedding on May 25th; and to Mr. and Mrs. T. Jackman, of Liverpool, who celebrated theirs on June 22nd.

## Silver Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. W. White, of Little Clacton, whose silver wedding was on June 1st. Congratulations.

## Grandfathers

T. Millward, of Moulscombe. H. A. T. Pearce, of Leighton Buzzard (the eleventh grandchild). H. Dakin, of Blackpool.



## “ In Memory ”

### John Boyles, *Immiskilling Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Boyles, of Belfast. He died at his home on May 17th—the eve of his 62nd birthday.

He served from his enlistment in August, 1914, until his discharge in 1916, but he did not come to St. Dunstan's until February, 1953, when his health prevented any serious training. He did, however, enjoy making a few string bags for our Stores, and he worked at these until about a year ago. He had been in failing health for some considerable time.

Our deep sympathy is sent to Mrs. Royles and her family.

### Private Leonard Jackson, *11th Cheshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of L. Jackson, of Heswall, at the age of 70.

He was blinded at Messines in June, 1917, and came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained as a basket and mat-maker, but when he left us he returned to his hairdresser's business and he carried this on at Rock Ferry until 1931 when he moved to Heswall.

He had many interests. He was a vice-president of the local branch of the British Legion, and a member of a number of committees. He was a keen cyclist—he was President of the Victoria Cycling Club—and he was a prominent Freemason, being Past Master of the James Thompson Lodge, Birkenhead.

We offer our deep sympathy to his widow and her son and daughter. Mrs. Jackson shared her husband's British Legion activities, being Chairman of the Women's Section, Heswall Branch, for many years.

### Lance Corporal John Watson Kerr, *1st Irish Guards*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. W. Kerr, of Widnes. He was 75.

He enlisted in August, 1914, and was wounded at Ypres two months later. He came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1915, and was one of the first six to come to us. He trained in mat-making and he followed his craft for twenty-eight years, sending mats to Stores and also doing local orders. Later he did local work only, but in 1948 he was forced by ill-health to give this up too.

His death follows closely on the death of his wife in November of last year, and our deep sympathy goes out to his children, some of whom are in America.

### Private Thomas Parker, M.M., *1st Royal Irish Fusiliers*

With deep regret we record the death of T. Parker, of Kilkenny, Eire, which occurred at his home on May 27th. He was 73.

He was a regular soldier—he served from September, 1901, until his discharge in March, 1916. He had been wounded in France and he came to us in March of that year. He followed his craft of rug-making until ill-health compelled him to give up.

He leaves a widow and family to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Air Raid Warden S. J. Sharam, *Royal Navy and Civil Defence Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of S. J. Sharam, of Torquay, at the age of 86.

At the age of fourteen he joined the Royal Navy and after twelve years' service was invalided out. When the Second World War came, he joined the Civil Defence Corps and in May, 1943, as he was leaving for duty a bomb dropped and he was blinded.

His age prevented him undertaking any training at St. Dunstan's but he was tremendously proud of his badge, which he wore always. He also took the greatest pride in his lovely garden, which he tended himself.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his brother and to Mrs. Davey, his landlady, who had looked after him for many years.

### Sergeant Charles Valentine Smith, *Royal Garrison Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of C. V. Smith, of Desford. He was 77.

He served from October, 1915, until November, 1919, coming to St. Dunstan's the following year. He trained in basket making, netting, and wool rugs, and for many years kept some poultry and pigs.

He lost his wife only two months ago and our deep sympathy goes out to his son in his double bereavement.

### Stanley Thomas Timmis Cox, *Australian Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the death of S. T. T. Cox, who was an Australian blinded ex-Serviceman, but who did not come to St. Dunstan's.

The news has reached us from Mrs. Cox, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

"I would encourage any blinded soldier who has let his braille slip to take it up again. The effort is really worth while and the reward that it brings of pleasure and independent occupation is worth working for."

I wrote those words in the ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW in June, 1932, addressing myself to the men of World War I. I had said much the same thing before in conversation and at informal gatherings, for it was a theme I could not repeat too often. It is particularly appropriate now when our younger members are looking back over a similar number of years to their training days at Church Stretton and Ovingdean.

Many of the First War men, including myself did our ordinary braille lessons at St. Dunstan's, passed our Tests, and then neglected and forgot all about it for many years, possibly because we were idle or busy, or because we didn't like it. Perhaps this was a psychological reflection of our attitude to blindness itself. We hated blindness and therefore we hated braille. However, we gradually got over this and realised how important it was, and I for one, and I know of many others, did take the trouble later to learn it properly and become fluent readers.

It strikes me that now is the time for Second War St. Dunstaners to do the same. How many, I wonder, passed their Tests at Church Stretton and have hardly touched a braille book since?

I am quite certain that nothing will bring them such a good reward in the next ten, twenty or thirty years than to make the effort—and it really is an effort—that is required to become fluent readers. I was very glad to see that my old friend, Tommy Rogers, who was for many years a braille teacher, joined forces with me last month and strongly advised all his old pupils to "invest in braille," as he put it.

For more than ten years, Arthur Pearson Prizes from the Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund have been given for Braille Reading Tests, but we have come to the conclusion that these prizes are not sufficient now. The value of money has depreciated since they were first awarded and bearing this in mind, the Council at a recent meeting decided to increase the prizes for the Tests as follows:

Preliminary Test	...	£2 0s. 0d.
Advanced Test	...	£5 0s. 0d.
Senior Test	...	£8 0s. 0d.

I would urge all St. Dunstaners, but particularly the younger ones, to think seriously about polishing up their braille, and if they would like to enter for the cash prizes that are available to them, to apply to Mr. Wills as soon as they think they are ready. But having



passed their Tests, let them on no account let up, as so many of the First War men were apt to do, to their great regret now.

Those who have lost their braille may like to be reminded of the many magazines available to them through St. Dunstan's—all free of charge. A complete list of braille publications follows this article and I would especially commend St. Dunstan's own magazine, *Nuggets*, which is printed in interline braille and therefore is particularly suitable for the man who is not quite as rapid as he was, or who finds it difficult to master his braille anyway.

One last word. There is a wealth of reading for the brailist at the National Library for the Blind. Again, the service is free to St. Dunstaners. Just send your name to Men's Supplies Department and it will be passed on to the Library. You will then have a list of the many books available. There are also certain books available from the R.N.I.B., the Scottish Braille Society, and the Moon Society, which we are glad to purchase if any St. Dunstaners wish to receive them.

IAN FRASER.

## Braille Publications

Here is a full list of Braille publications, all of which can be ordered through Men's Supplies Department.

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*Bible Reading Fellowship; Braille Mail; Braille Mirror (American); Braille Monitor (previously American All Story Magazine); Channels of Blessing; Chess Quarterly; Daily Notes on Scripture Union Portions; Extracts From The Law Notes; Family Doctor; Gleanings; Hampstead Magazine; Home Help; Hora Jocunda; The Horizon; Jewish Braille Review (American); Journal of Physiotherapy; Listener; Madam; National News Letter; Musical Magazine; New Beacon; New Statesman and Nation; News Summary; Nuggets; On the Edge of the Etherick (American); Panda; Physiotherapy Journal; Progress Announcement Supplement; Radio Times; Rainbow; Readers' Digest; St. Dunstan's Review; S.P.G. Braille News (Missionary News); Science Journal; Sporting Record (Weekly); Sports Report (Monthly); Theological Times; Thistle; Viewpoint; World Christian Digest (Quarterly); World Digest; Cricket Fixtures.*

## Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. C. Singleton, of Worthing, June 25th. Warmest congratulations.

## Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Williams, of Llandaff North, Cardiff, June 25th; and Mr. and Mrs. C. Greaves, of Sheffield, July 4th. Many congratulations.

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Advocate A. H. Simcocks, of Ballasalla, Isle of Man, who is a Member of the Manx Bar and Member of the House of Keys, has been appointed to the Governor's Executive Council.

## In Parliament

When the House of Commons was discussing the general question of pensions on July 7th, Sir Ian Fraser reminded the Minister that there were two allowances which had never been raised. One was the 10s. paid to a disabled ex-serviceman's wife, which had remained at that figure since 1919. The other was the £1 a week which a very seriously disabled man receiving an unemployability allowance was allowed to earn as pocket money, or as payment for work which was in the nature of rehabilitation, for it was better that he should have something to do rather than have nothing to do at all. "That sum ought to be raised," said Sir Ian, "It has remained at £1 a week for a long time now."

### If We See (for St. Dunstan's)

(The following lines were sent to the Appeals Department by a subscriber).

*If every time we said, "I see," we thought  
of those who cannot;  
If whenever in the dark, we sought  
The light switch, we remembered  
Those to whom not it nor day brings light;  
If seeing some lovely thing—  
A pretty girl, a sunset, stars at night—  
Which brought our senses pleasure and delight  
And made life richer—  
If we then remembered those who gave their sight  
That we might live,  
St. Dunstan's would not beg, but claim of right  
All we could give.* LEONARD DOWNES.

★ ★ ★

As in past years, there will be no REVIEW for the month of August.

## Stop Press

A St. Dunstan's team will take part in the bridge programme on Tuesday, September 23rd at 6.45 p.m. on Network 3.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.* On Saturday, 28th June, 1958, twenty members of the Bridge Section, comprising five teams of four, played a 20-board Duplicate Match against the members of the L.C.C.B.A. at 16 Berkeley Street, W.1. The teams were as follows:

*No. 1 team:* Messrs. Armstrong, Douglas, Webster and Henry.

*No. 2 team:* Messrs. Jolly, Bishop, Ingrey and Bulman.

*No. 3 team:* Messrs. Gover, Nuyens, Winter and Thompson.

*No. 4 team:* Messrs. Jackson, Cook, Crabtree and Matthewman.

*No. 5 team:* Messrs. Rhodes, Walsh, Kelk and Kirkbright.

Some very interesting hands were keenly contested. The results of the St. Dunstan's teams were:

*Winners:* No. 2 team; *Second:* No. 1 team; *Third:* No. 3 team; *Fourth:* No. 5 team; *Fifth:* No. 4 team.

Mr. S. Webster passed a vote of thanks to our hosts who make this annual fixture one of our outstanding events.

Mrs. F. Pitt Reynolds kindly presented the medals to our team who won the London Business Houses League for the 1957-58 season.

G.P.B./W.B.

To mark the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the London Club an outing was arranged to Bognor on Sunday, June 29th. Everyone was on time and a punctual start was made in glorious sunshine. After an enjoyable drive we arrived at our destination at 12.15 to find a wonderful lunch awaiting us, after which members and their escorts dispersed to stroll or sit along the front. We returned to the restaurant at 5 o'clock to a wonderful tea. We then made our way to the coach for the homeward journey. The music was provided by the usual trio, Messrs. Ollington, Harding and Hancock. The whole company sang with gusto to the many songs and choruses played.

Mr. Crabtree proposed a vote of thanks to our worthy Chairman, Mr. Sammy Webster, and to our organiser, Mr. Bob Willis.

Everyone was unanimous in saying it was a wonderful day, grand food, grand day and jolly good company.

Now Londoners, what about *joining the London Club* and enjoy yourself with us?

W. H. HARDING.

## National Federation of the Blind

Fred Ripley, of Leatherhead, is the Public Relations Officer for the National Federation of the Blind and he has sent us a report of the recent Annual Conference of the Federation, extracts from which are printed below:

In addition to Mr. Ripley and Mr. A. Scott, from Belfast, Mr. David Bell, of Edinburgh was also among the delegates present.

St. Dunstaners interested in joining the Federation should get in touch with Mr. Ripley.

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This year's Annual Conference of the National Federation of the Blind was held in Edinburgh on June 7th and 8th.

Most of us had travelled to Scotland overnight at the end of a busy week, and an occasional display of frayed nerves or sleepy apathy might reasonably have been expected, yet this was in fact a notably good-tempered conference, and the prevailing mood of debate was anything but apathetic. For this we owe a good deal to the lively personality of Mr. A. Scott, a St. Dunstaner from Belfast, whose eloquent, good-humoured pugnacity left members in no doubt about the views of Northern Ireland on a wide range of topics.

There were a number of hardy annuals on an agenda which offered a taste of everything, from unattainable dreams to shrewd points of practical policy. On paper, the 49 resolutions may not have looked inspiring, and it is a tribute to the wise chairmanship of the Federation's President, Mr. J. F. Wilson, that this impression did not persist. He managed to keep things moving briskly, while at the same time insisting that even the most timid or obscure speaker should get a fair hearing.

There were one or two surprising decisions, but on the whole there was more of reason than dramatic tension about our discussions. Greater efforts to secure an income-tax concession for the blind are urged and the Ministry of Health is to be asked whether the status of home workers can be redefined so that the burden of National Insurance contributions at the self-employed rate may be shared by the employing agency.

Edinburgh will certainly be rated one of the Federation's happiest conferences.

HARRY BOOTH.



## Letter to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I wonder how many St. Dunstaners have still got their original watch? I am still using the watch I received from the late Sir Arthur Pearson when I was in hospital. It still keeps remarkably good time. I got it in 1916. I wonder if this is a record?

Yours sincerely,

*Torphins.*

E. M. BROCKIE.

## Manchester Club Notes

Members of the Manchester Club, along with wives and escorts, had the pleasure of a visit to the Railway Hotel, Pleasington, on Saturday, 4th July, and for this outing we were favoured with sunshine and all that goes to make up an enjoyable afternoon and evening.

On arrival, our party was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, of the Railway Hotel, and by members of their Darts team, and very soon we were joined by our St. Dunstaner, Bob Britton, who has been so instrumental in making these visits possible over the past five or six years.

"Tea is served"—only those who have experienced taking tea at this rendezvous can fully appreciate the substance and meaning of the kind of welcome we visiting St. Dunstaners receive. For this, we are most grateful to the ladies who devote their time and skill in seeing that what is served is, as far as possible, "home-made," and of the best. The fruit salad which rounded off the meal was made complete by the ice cream prepared and given by Mrs. Britton.

In the interval following tea, there was an opportunity to take some fresh air before commencing the evening games, which resulted in a draw at Darts—five games all—and a win at Dominoes—three games to two. One needs hardly mention that games played on such occasions do rouse special enthusiasm. Thus, whilst the men chatted and played, the ladies sang and chatted and the evening seemed to pass quickly.

Prior to leaving for homes, Mr. Herbert Frost tendered our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hindle, our hosts; to the members of their Darts team for the good spirit in which the games were played; and to all those who had helped in any way to provide such a splendid welcome and an enjoyable time.

J. SHAW, *Hon. Secretary.*

## The Reunions

The first of the West Country Reunions was at Bristol on May 31st. It was presided over by Mr. Donald Hopewell, a member of our Council, who is already well-known among our West Country St. Dunstaners, and we were very pleased to welcome Mr. Lloyds to this meeting for the first time.

The Plymouth meeting was on June 3rd, and Mr. Wills presided over a small but happy gathering.

Bournemouth, on June 7th, was naturally a much larger Reunion. Our President, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., presided. We were glad to see our old friend, Mrs. Giorgi, who is no longer able to get around to as many Reunions as she used to.

Mr. Hopewell presided at Blackpool on June 18th, and it proved to be a very hectic affair indeed. Al Read, in person, supported by Charlie Clitheroe, provided a most enjoyable afternoon's entertainment, and Mr. Hopewell thanked the artists on behalf of all our St. Dunstaners for giving us their very limited time to entertain us.

At the Chester Reunion on June 20th, the British Legion was represented by Mr. T. F. Lister, who is also a member of our Council, and who presided, and Mr. W. J. Bennett, County Secretary. Everyone was sorry to hear that it was to be Miss Newall's last Reunion, as she had decided to resign for health reasons at the end of the month.

A member of the Council who had not previously met our Lancashire lads, Mr. Alan Pitt Robbins, presided at our Manchester Reunion on June 21st, and it was grand to see old friends like Miss Betty Vaughan Davies and Miss E. G. Doel again.

Our Welsh St. Dunstaners also met a member of the Council for the first time when the Ven. Archdeacon F. Darrell Bunt presided at Cardiff on June 28th. Mr. Ottaway and Miss Lloyd, neither looking a day older, were both welcome guests.

The Ipswich meeting was on July 2nd.

Sir Ian and Lady Fraser attended and Major-General R. D. Inskip, Chairman of St. Dunstan's Ipswich committee, and Mrs. Inskip, were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Sir Ian said, "Ipswich was the home of my family before they went to South Africa in the 1870s." Sir Ian paid a tribute to the Welfare Department. "In the last 40 years since we founded the old After-Care

Department it has developed enormously in the services that it renders to St. Dunstan's," he said. Mrs. Inskip presented the prizes.

Although the management of the George Hotel, Nottingham, thought it rather cruel to make our St. Dunstaners dance, a very happy reunion was held there on July 4th with Sir Neville Pearson presiding. The catering was really excellent and the dining room beautifully arranged.

St. Dunstaners attending the Birmingham Reunion on July 5th, were deeply disappointed to learn from Mr. Wills that Lieut.-General Sir Brian Horrocks would be unable to preside through illness, but he had sent the following message: "I am deeply distressed to have let you down at the last moment but am in bed under the doctor who refuses me permission to travel, and he is much more frightening than any general under whom I have ever served." A telegram was despatched to Sir Brian from all at the Reunion wishing him a speedy recovery.

### From All Quarters

George Shed, of Burgess Hill, has had further success with his pigeon racing. One of his birds has won a cup in a race from Seaton, Devon, to Burgess Hill, and he has also won a second prize and two fourths with other birds. His schoolboy son has also recently won a first and a second prize with his birds.

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Joe Humphrey, of Belfast, won the Speakers' Cup (Round Table) at Bangor, Co. Down. His subject was, "Referred Pain."

★ ★ ★

Mrs. McGuire, whose marriage to our St. Dunstaner was announced last month, will be better known to St. Dunstaners as Mrs. Carter—one of our kind helpers at Ovingdean and not a V.A.D. as described in the notice.

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Address of St. Dunstan's Camp will be: St. Dunstan's Camp, H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent. Will wives and friends please note.

★ ★ ★

On July 23rd, Sir Ian and Lady Fraser celebrated the 40th anniversary of their wedding.

### Grandfathers

C. Eighteen, of Reading; H. H. Langton, of Bottesford.

## Birmingham Club

### Outing to Stratford-on-Avon, June 15th, 1958

This year our excursion was blessed with beautiful weather and the members, members' wives and children, and former members' widows turned up well to enjoy a happy day at Stratford.

The Alexandra Musical Society provided transport with their usual generosity and two comfortable coaches conveyed parties from Walsall or Birmingham headquarters.

After a pleasant steamer trip and a few sports in the meadow, we went to the Stratford British Legion for tea. The welcome and the hospitality from these friends seems undiminished each year, although the trouble in providing a lavish "spread" for such a party (this year there were 52 adults and 19 children) on a hot afternoon must be quite exhausting.

A former secretary of the Birmingham Club, Miss M. Chadwick, was unfortunately not able to meet us this year but sent cigarettes for the men. The children received sweets and prizes through the generosity of Miss Wheeler and Mrs. Cope and a good time was had by all.

This day will certainly leave a happy memory for all who were there.

### Presentation to Drummer Downs

At the London Club on Thursday, July 17th, a presentation was made to Drummer Downs by Mr. S. Webster, supported by Mr. R. Young, on behalf of his many St. Dunstaner friends.

The presentation, which took the form of a striking clock and a cheque, was a tribute to Drummer's help and comradeship over many years, and of his personal example of cheerfulness in face of his own handicap.

Drummer replying, made a very modest and apt speech of thanks.

### Sutton Club

Dear Friends,

My wife and I wish to thank you for your good wishes and wonderful surprise on our 11th anniversary.

We were pleased to think we would be spending it at a Club meeting but had not anticipated such spontaneous enthusiasm from you all.

Yours very sincerely,  
A. C. MITCHELL (Mitch).



## Talking Book Library

### Browsing for High Summer

Here are the outlines of eight books and three titles also released, to bring the library up-to-date before the holiday month sets in or out.

"In the Steps of the Master," by H. V. Morton, reader John Webster, journeys through Palestine, Egypt, and Syria, pausing to create and breathe in the atmosphere of the places visited by Christ. Read side-by-side with the Gospels it may help to illuminate some of the incidents, but, quite apart from that, the author has produced a soothing atmosphere and an interesting circuit. *Cat. No. 49.*

"Stranger in Spain," by H. V. Morton, reader Jack de Manio, is more or less a full and fascinating guide to central and North West Spain, with a great deal of satisfying illustration in the form of historical anecdote. *Cat. No. 166.*

"Great Contemporaries," by Winston Churchill, reader Alvar Lidell, covers a multitude of great political figures of the first half of this century as seen through the eyes of the greatest of them all. As one might expect, style, restraint, and magnanimity typify this excellent volume. *Cat. No. 144.*

"South Riding," by Winifred Holtby, reader Stephen Jack, is the Yorkshire classic of a progressive schoolmistress and a penniless squire (wife in mental home) with one wilful little daughter. A story of local government intrigue supported by many individual human characters, gay, sad, and positively poignant. The stage set some 30-35 years ago. *Cat. No. 156.*

"The Broken Road," by A. E. W. Mason, reader Adrian Waller, is an Anglo-Indian story in which the road, half-built by an ill-fated engineer in a princely state of remote North India, acts as a magnet to his son who dedicates himself to complete the work. The princeling, close friend of the son, turns sour on the "Western whites," and ensues a bloody campaign with a reasonable outcome. *Cat. No. 371.*

"The Life of Samuel Johnson," by James Boswell, reader Eric Gillett, is a classic portrayal of the Grand Cham of literature which is enjoyable only to someone in good spirits. The only picture I get of this book is of Boswell as a lapdog sniffing hungrily and inquisitively at every utterance of the monstrous old genius. Without Boswell,

Dr. Johnson was fine material for a biography and, even with Boswell, that much is apparent here. *Cat. No. 185.*

"Sundry Creditors," by Nigel Balchin, reader Laidman Browne, concerns mainly the Board of Management of a none-too-prosperous industrial firm in the days of post-war shortages. The attempts of the Managing Director, a misguided character, to obtain sole control are successfully thwarted by his more responsible colleagues and, at the same time as the management struggle is on, one of the factory hands he-mans the managing director's daughter off her feet. *Cat. No. 85.*

"Dacre's Fold," by Margaret Brash, reader Derek McCulloch, is a neglected farm with a cloth mill adjacent, housing a pretty, young deserted wife and her stricken old father-in-law. The errant husband, dedicated to wine and women, has a plantation in Malaya where he induces his double, a slightly younger cousin, to do most of the work until terrorists wreck the place. Seriously injured, the sober cousin is shanghaied home by the husband and blackmailed into impersonating that worthy. Avoiding the pretty wife's bed the sober cousin puts both farm and mill back on their feet after two year's hard work. Hubby then returns claiming everything. If you are not interested I had best say no more, but I assure you the rest is entertaining. *Cat. No. 618.*

Also released: "The Royal Box," by F. Parkinson Keyes, reader Stephen Jack. *Cat. No. 167.* "Poison in the Pen," by Patricia Wentworth, reader Eric Gillett. *Cat. No. 708.* "Famous Trials," edited by H. Hodge, reader Franklin Engelmann. *Cat. No. 34.* NELSON.

## Family News

Captain Robin Harris (Ripon), of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, attached to the Aden Protectorate Levies, has been awarded the Military Cross for his inspiring conduct in action with an armoured car squadron in Aden.

★ ★ ★

Sheila Read, Weybridge, has passed her Grade I. Practical with the Royal Schools, and was also successful at Staines and Ashford Musical Festival, where she took part in a piano duet.

★ ★ ★

Helen Thompson, Gateshead, won a first prize at the recent local Gymkhana.

## Personal

*From Horsham*

Just a little space to say "Thank You" for all the very numerous enquiries about me when I was so ill. It is impossible for me to answer them all and this is the first time I have tried to contact anyone.

Thank you all for your wonderful gifts of flowers, fruits and other gifts. It's quite marvellous to me to realise that I was so well liked.

Above all, thank you for your prayers, all of you—I am sure that they carried me through.

Thanks also to the Brighton Club's Sisterhood, which did not leave me alone one visiting night.

So, till we meet again, keep praying for me.

MILLIE RICHARDSON.

★ ★ ★

The new address of Mrs. H. W. Kirby, whose husband's death is reported in this issue, is Ilex Cottage, The Street, East Preston, Sussex. Many friends will only have their Banstead address which they left a few weeks ago.

## Ovingdean Sports, 1958

Another most enjoyable Sports Day was held at Ovingdean on Saturday, June 21st.

Sir Ian Fraser, who was accompanied by Lady Fraser, gave away the prizes and in a short speech, thanked Mr. Fawcett, the Commandant, Miss Ramshaw, Marton, Mr. Jarrold, the Catering Staff, and all others, including the local Boy Scouts, who had helped to make the Sports Day such a success.

"This is a splendid St. Dunstan's party," he said, "especially for the children."

## Births

COOPER.—On June 19th, to the wife of K. Cooper, of Addlestone, Weybridge, a daughter—Denise June.

HIGGS.—On June 2nd, to the wife of E. G. Higgs, of Dollis Hill, a son—Edwin Clive.

NOLDE.—On May 31st, to the wife of Norman Nolde, of Moorabbin, Victoria, Australia, a son—Peter Sharland.

SHEEHAN.—On June 23rd, to the wife of P. Sheehan, of Leyton, E.10, a third son—Colin Henry.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

HILL.—T. W. H. Hill, of Acton, W.4, and Mrs. Hill, in the loss of a dear son-in-law.

JONES.—To R. Jones, of Swansea, who lost his mother on June 25th.

## Presentations

Sammy Webster, of Forest Hill, is a telephonist and he has just completed forty years' of continual service with his firm, the Lutterworth Press (U.S.C.L.). To mark the occasion, on July 22nd a presentation was made to him of a cheque in lieu of the gold watch normally given. With the cheque was a braille inscribed card:

SAMUEL H. WEBSTER

*In appreciation of 40 years' loyal and conscientious service with the Society*

U.S.C.L.

1918—1958

The inscription was also in script so that Mrs. Webster could appreciate the tribute to her husband.

★ ★ ★

On July 21st, G. P. (Jock) Brown, of Twickenham, was presented with a gold watch on completing twenty-one years as a telephonist with his firm.

## "In Memory"—continued

**Gunner Isaac Davidson, 20th Trench Mortar Battalion, Royal Field Artillery**

With deep regret we record the death of I. Davidson, of Audenshaw, Manchester. He was 72.

He served from his enlistment in June, 1915, until August, 1916. He had been wounded on the Somme the previous month and he entered St. Dunstan's almost immediately. He had been in extremely poor health for very many years and consequently was not able to follow any occupation.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Davidson and her family.

**Lance Corporal Alfred Edward Bowlting, 2nd Battalion Welch Regiment**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. E. Bowlting, of Fulham, S.W.6, at the age of 70.

He served in the First World War but it was not until April, 1954, that he came to St. Dunstan's, and his age then prevented him undertaking any training.

With Mrs. Bowlting he had returned from a holiday at Hastings on July 3rd; he was taken ill only a week later and he died in hospital on July 14th.

To Mrs. Bowlting and her family our deep sympathy is sent.



## “ In Memory ”

### Private Reginald Fitzgerald, *Royal Army Medical Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of R. Fitzgerald, of Halifax. He was 69.

He was a regular soldier—he had enlisted in August, 1906—and he came to us in 1917 soon after he had been wounded at Bapaume.

He trained as a masseur and carried on his work as a physiotherapist at the Royal Infirmary, Halifax, and in private practice, up to the time of his death.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Fitzgerald, who is herself a physiotherapist, and who had helped him in his private practice.

### Private Charles Hills, *10th West Yorkshire Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. Hills, of Ramsgate, at the age of 69.

He came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1917; he trained as a mat-maker and continued with this work up to the time of his death. He was one of our best craftsmen.

He went to Ovingdean for a holiday on June 9th but was taken ill three weeks later. He was admitted to Bevendean Hospital, where he died on July 1st.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and family.

### Private Herbert William Kirby, *2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. W. Kirby, of East Preston, near Worthing, but who until recently had lived at Banstead. He was 64.

He was one of our very first St. Dunstaners, coming to us on March 22nd, 1915. He trained as a masseur and continued with his work as a physiotherapist until his retirement in April of last year. He had been only a fortnight in his new bungalow at East Preston, and he died very suddenly on Saturday, July 5th.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Kirby and her two sons.

### Private George William Rose, *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

With deep regret we record the death of G. W. Rose, of Pontefract, at the age of 66.

He served from September, 1914, until November, 1917, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until September, 1949, when his health prevented him taking any serious training. He did, however, make string bags for us.

He had been in very poor health for some considerable time and he died on June 28th.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is sent to his family.

### Lance-Bombardier Harry Gordon Russell, *Royal Engineers, transferred to Royal Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of H. G. Russell, of Patcham, Brighton. He was 51.

He was discharged from the Service in 1945, but did not come to us until May, 1955. He was then too ill to undertake training. His home was at Kingston but he later moved to Patcham. In December last, he was admitted to Ovingdean. His condition gradually deteriorated and he was transferred to Pearson House, where he died on June 21st.

He leaves a wife and widowed mother, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Lance Corporal Cecil Hubert Smith, *25th Northumberland Fusiliers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of C. H. Smith, of Bury St. Edmunds, at the age of 69.

He was wounded at Cambrai and came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1918. He trained as a mat-maker and he carried on his craft, with the addition sometimes of a little netting, right up to the time of his death.

He had spent a holiday at Ovingdean and returned home on Monday, June 30th; he died in the early hours of the following day.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Smith and her family.

### A. G. Eitner, *South African Forces*

It is with deep regret that we have heard from South Africa of the death of A. G. Eitner, on May 28th after a long illness. He had served in the 1914-1919 war and was in his 67th year.

He leaves a widow and two small children, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Wing Commander Frank Bernard Howard Hayward, *A.F.C., Royal Air Force*

It is with deep regret we record the death of F. B. "Bill" Howard Hayward, of Bexhill-on-Sea, who served with the Royal Air Force from 1929 to 1946. He died at Pearson House on June 22nd, after many years' illness. He was admitted to St. Dunstan's in 1951; subsequently he stayed at Ovingdean and Pearson House on a number of occasions and will be remembered by many who met him there.

He leaves a widow and daughter to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### Captain Cyril Victor Lewis Montgomery, *Royal Army Service Corps*

With deep regret we record the death of C. V. L. Montgomery ("Monty"), who died very suddenly at his home at Slinfold on July 9th.

He was in the Regular Army and came to St. Dunstan's in 1949; later he was a successful poultry farmer. He, too, was known to many St. Dunstaners at Ovingdean, who will all regret his loss.

Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Montgomery and her married son.

(Continued on previous page)

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## LORD FRASER OF LONSDALE

### An Appreciation from our President

**T**HIS month our readers may be surprised to find nothing under the heading of "Chairman's Notes." On this rare occasion I felt that "Notes about the Chairman" would be more appropriate.

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, as we must now get into the habit of calling our old friend and leader, Sir Ian, has had by any standards, whether sighted or not, a splendid and remarkable career. All through it has run the strong rope of St. Dunstan's, to which he, in company with all of you, was glad to anchor himself in the early days of his blindness and which, throughout a distinguished career, has always been a sustaining factor in a life which any man would be glad to emulate. He was blinded when still almost a boy, just over half-way through the '14-18 war. For the first time in our history thousands of healthy, active young men were blinded. With them he shared the bewilderment of entering a new and suddenly darkened world. Only a year or two before then my father, who was of an older generation, had also found his way into that unusual world, but he was not a type who would readily sit down under its disadvantages, and I am sure that more than anyone else he was able at that time to give to the blind world, and particularly to the war blind, a feeling that blindness was not the end and that it might even be the beginning. And I think in Lord Fraser's case this really was the truth. As a young and vigorous man he accepted the challenge of blindness, but he accepted it slowly and step by step, hence it came about that when others of his contemporaries had completed their training and had decided what they were going to do with their lives he had still not quite made up his mind, and therefore he gladly accepted my father's invitation to stay on a little longer at St. Dunstan's and in the meanwhile to start our After-Care Department, which was then a new thing in the blind world but which, as the years have passed, has become the backbone of St. Dunstan's. How glad we all are now that he stayed and that he was thus so well fitted when the call came in 1921 to assume the heavy responsibilities of the Chairmanship.

Soon this young man of outstanding mental capacity and tenacity of purpose had found the interest of politics drawing him. After all, at the end of the 1914 war, which had been the biggest upheaval in our history and which was the first step in that social revolution which it took the 1939 war to complete, there were a number of young men who felt an urge to try seriously to participate in the direction of affairs. Times had changed a great deal since 1914. And so in 1922 he decided to stand for the London County Council. Often this has been the stepping-off ground to higher politics and ultimately to a great and successful political career.

I think it was largely because he had been so close to my father and had in fact become



his young lieutenant in the blind world that he soon came to know and admire Miss Mace, as she then was, who had remained with my father from the time he left the nursing home where his last and unsuccessful eye operations were performed, through the halting days in which he had to recover from the shock of no longer being able to be an active newspaper proprietor, to the time when he decided to devote his energies to placing the blind man both psychologically and economically more obviously on the map. Soon the friendship between these two young people ripened into something stronger than just a desire on the one side to help and on the other to progress, and it ended in one of the most perfectly matched marriages of our time. I am sure that Lord Fraser would be the first to agree that the debt which he owes to his wife is one that he could only repay in one way, by making a complete success of the kind of life which he had decided to lead, and thereby proving that blindness really need only be a slight handicap in the ambitious journey to which he had decided to dedicate himself.

From the L.C.C. it was a natural step to Parliament. But at the same time he never let the interests of those who, like himself, had some handicap to manage, remain uncared for, with the result that the thousands of men who comprise the British Legion elected him as their President and sustained him in that office for the unprecedented period of eleven years. During all that time he attended many hundreds of British Legion functions all over the country, always in the interests of the handicapped or the unfortunate, and often, either on its behalf or on behalf of St. Dunstan's, he visited countries overseas, both in our Empire and beyond it, where help and advice were needed to promote the interests of the blind or the disabled. Splendidly he carried this great work on to the floor of the House of Commons, and through his agency two important Bills were passed through Parliament which have had a great influence on the life of blind persons.

As happens in the life of all politicians, there was a short period during which he was in the wilderness, but he did not waste this time. While he was there he studied Law with such assiduity that in a short time he was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, and although he never practised as a barrister the training which he submitted himself to during these years has stood him in excellent stead, and probably had a considerable influence in turning him into the kind of man who not only could represent the world of the blind and the disabled on any occasion, but whose mind was of a quality that has caused the Directors of several commercial firms to invite him to join the sighted colleagues on their Boards.

I will not list here a catalogue of the honours that he has justly gained, or the many and varied interests in which he has distinguished himself. I can only say that of him St. Dunstan's is extremely proud, and that to him and Lady Fraser St. Dunstan's is genuinely and sincerely indebted for a lifetime of unremitting service which has done much to keep the torch of St. Dunstan's a beacon and an inspiration to the whole blind world.

NEVILLE PEARSON.

### From Our Chairman

Lord Fraser, in a message to the Editor, writes:

"Lady Fraser and I are delighted with the honour and especially that so many of our St. Dunstan's friends have written very kind letters to us, which we greatly appreciate.

"While I shall miss certain aspects of life in the House of Commons and the warm-hearted goodwill of my constituents, the relief from the nightly vigil and much travelling will be very welcome and will enable Lady Fraser and me to take things a little bit more easily.

"I am particularly pleased that, as I grow

older, I shall continue to have a place in Parliament in which I have spent the greater part of my life."

### A Good Friend Retires

Mrs. B. Blunden, for fourteen years the official Social Visitor to the Deaf-Blind of Sussex, has recently retired and our deaf St. Dunstaners will miss her greatly. Mrs. Blunden was a very hard worker for the deaf-blind and the organiser of many social occasions for the members. She took a great interest in deaf St. Dunstaners and when she knew that they were in the Sussex area, always included them in invitations to meetings, entertainments, etc., at the Brighton Deaf Club.

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—May I remind all bridge players that the St. Dunstan's Bridge Congress will take place at Ovingdean during the week-end of Saturday, November 15th. Will all those who are interested and wish to enter for the Sir Arthur Pearson Cup competitions—for pairs and teams of four—send in their names if they have not already done so to Mr. Bob Willis, at the London Club, before October 18th, at the same time giving the name of the partner they have arranged to play with. This will enable the Committee to make the draw and ensure the smooth running of the competitions. I am afraid I cannot guarantee a partner for any single names sent in, although I will do my best.

The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club will be held at Ovingdean on Friday night, November 14th, beginning at 7.30 p.m. Commandant Fawcett will take the chair.

G.P.B.

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By the time these notes appear in the REVIEW, most St. Dunstaners will, I hope, have had a very pleasant holiday despite the inclemency of the weather. Autumn is now with us and might I remind those of you who live in the London area that the London Club is still functioning very happily and we shall be very pleased to welcome you any time on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings.

I am glad to see that numbers have increased since last year. I hope many more will try and come.

Good luck to you all.

SAMMY WEBSTER,

*Chairman.*

## Circle of Guide Dog Owners

The Annual General Meeting of the Circle of Guide Dog Owners is to be held at Windermere House, Westow Street, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, on October 4th and 5th. Applications to attend should be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Arthur A. Bulgen, 212 Selhurst Road, South Norwood, S.E.25.

## For Sale

H.M.V. Portable Radio (Battery and Mains). 110, 130 and 220/240 volts.A.C. Medium and long waves. Five valves. Good condition.

If interested, please write to the Editor making an offer.

## War Pensions Life Certificates

St. Dunstaners will be interested to hear that by a new Statutory Instrument the list of persons qualified to attest a War Pensions Life Certificate has been widened very considerably, so that in future, where a Life Certificate is being completed in the United Kingdom any person who is registered as a parliamentary elector and is not the husband or wife of the pensioner may act as Attestor.

This should simplify the completion of the Certificates.

There are slightly different requirements for the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and for persons residing outside the United Kingdom.

The majority of the Life Certificates are contained in the Pension Order Books, which are issued at two-yearly intervals. These old style Life Certificates will continue to be used, but renewal Pension Order Books issued from January, 1959, onwards, will contain the new style Life Certificates. Other Life Certificates which are not inserted in Pension Order Books will be revised on reprint and brought into operation as soon as possible.

H. D. RICE.

## Retirements

Bill Harding, of Finsbury Park, retired in July after nearly thirty-nine years as a telephonist with one of the City's largest wholesale companies. At an informal gathering of the staff, he was presented with a cheque from the company, with part of which he will buy a new white stick with an inscribed silver band.

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On June 28th, Harry Raymond Arney, of Pinner, retired after serving with London Transport for just over forty-five years. A very handsome Certificate of Service, already framed, was delivered to him by hand on the date of his retirement.

## Great Grandfathers

M. O. Anker, of Earley, Reading; R. Bell, of Dublin; J. W. Roden, of Chorley.

## Grandfathers

H. Wordsworth, of Gainsborough; J. W. Fletcher, of Lenton Abbey. And new grandchildren for A. King, of Bridlington; H. Tweed, of Newmarket; C. Durkin, of Worcester and A. Briggs, of Norwich.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Whilst visiting George Fallowfield in his workshop some time ago, I was impressed by the confidence with which he placed and located tools on his bench whilst he used another tool. I do not suppose all other woodworkers, basket-makers, etc., have my faults in their workshops; I put a bradawl or screwdriver on the bench and then indulge in naval vernacular when it rolls to the ground. With this in mind, I examined George's tools more closely—the answer was so simple! All his tools with rounded hafts or handles were slightly flattened at one side—two or three shavings with a plane or chisel, and when put on the bench, they stayed put! George told me he found the idea most necessary with the stylus provided with the pocket Braille Writer.

For those who suffered—like me—it may help!

Yours sincerely,

L. FAWCETT,

*Commandant.*

DEAR EDITOR,

What about starting a theatre, book and cinema column in the REVIEW? Often I would like to go to a show or a cinema and find it difficult to decide on which would be the best one to go to. It would be better still if you could pick out the ones most suitable for blind people.

Yours sincerely,

*Westcliff-on-Sea.*

MICKY BURNS

[This letter will be referred to next month, but in the meantime have any readers any comment or suggestions to make on the subject?—Ed.]

## To Lee-on-Solent Campers

In the rush of the last night in Camp, and the hectic early departure, I never had a chance to really thank you for the wonderful flowers you gave me. They arrived home so fresh and lovely and were much admired. Thank you all so much. I do appreciate your doing it, but as I told many of you, I was furious at having been given them so much in public and being stuck behind a mike to say thank you. I did it so badly, so I want to add this message of thanks to you all. It was such a nice thought—thank you very much.

A.O.S.

## Royal Naval Barracks

Lee-on-Solent, 1958

1945-1958. Every year fifty St. Dunstaners have been invited to spend a week's holiday "on board" H.M.S. Daedalus as guests of the Royal Navy. Nothing has ever been spared to give us a most wonderful welcome. Never in fourteen years has anyone ever said the stupid misunderstanding things all of you have to endure "outside." They seem to know just what is required by instinct. I am told that where field gunners meet, the conversation always turns to the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, and that now they have been helping us for years, it also turns to St. Dunstan's. Blessings on all the field gunners. They do a most wonderful job for us. They have all campers well in order. I can hear Chief Lister coming across the Parade Ground, two St. Dunstaners on each arm, approaching Anson Block—"Halt, line astern."

Many Wrens were on leave but Chief Wren Riley brought some charming partners to the dances from Duchess of Kent Barracks.

For the last three years we have had Lieut. Commander Cobley with us. I would like to say how wonderful it has been to work with him. He has made everything so much easier because he enjoys it too, and feels so strongly that it is worthwhile.

There were many new campers this year; it was good to see them fitting in and enjoying themselves. I will leave it to John Mudge to tell in his own amusing way all we did during the Camp Week.

In the Walking Race, R. Young was first in the handicap and R. Brett won the Challenge Cup presented by Miss Talbot for the fastest novice.

All old campers were delighted to have Miss Talbot with the party. She came with her leg in plaster, having been in hospital for six months after being knocked down by a car in London. She said she simply could not miss a Camp.

At the last night Dance, Johnnie Boyd presented Lieut. Commander Cobley with a set of cuff links from the campers and said "thank you" for us all. Lieut. Commander Cobley, taken completely by surprise, said many nice things which obviously came straight from the heart.

Thank you to our host, Commander Chapman. It was a glorious week.

A.O.S.

### "Via Pompey"

Now it came to the time of the bright Suns, and of the heat of high summer, and, despite the cold winds that blew at this time and the rains that had fallen, there was fever abroad.

Now from remote spots in the land of Eng, came many of the Dark Eyed Ones, yea, even from Scotland, Wales, and other places the breadth and depth of the land. They had all come, some two and a half score, to Daedalus, at Lee on the Solent, nigh one hour's travel from Portsmouth, they had come these lucky ones, to indulge once more in the feasting, the dancing, the laughter and experience of "One week with those who wear the deep Blue and have Wings."

Now at the fourth hour of the afternoon the first arrivals came from Brighton and Sussex, and as the minutes passed other small tribes arrived from London and Points West. At the sound of the first feast gong all were there, all settled in once again to do justice to this week of what they willed.

As the time passed there were many visits to the Palace of the Chiefs, where many an evening there was revelry, many a good story, many a good song, and for many, a good dance. Here it was in this wonder hall of C.P.O.s that the wine did flow freely, and faces obtained a flush which was attributed to the salt air and sea breeze, but was, I feel, due more to the ministering angels of Bacchus.

Then came the trip of crossing the waters to visit the Cowes, whose milk was obtained in the usual "Britannia," and where on this trip our flying colleague J. Boyd, got in a little more flying time via Diesel powered crane.

There were those too, whose fortunes did not grant them the trip to Cowes, but these were indeed glad as they did venture forth into the waters from the land, and from the waters back on to land at a place from whence they had not come, for was not the trip in the Duck a real duck of a trip? These fortunate ones did enter the water from the Slipway of Lee and crawled up the beach near Southampton, and having refilled the Inner Man's fuel tank did traverse the roads back to the Main Gate.

Now it is recorded that the Dark Eyed Ones will try anything once, and this time

it was denied to them the fast flight in a plane of normality, so with helmets and earphones and individual throat microphones and squatting upon haunches, they did enjoy the thrill of dancing a quadrille in a helicopter, Forward and Bow, Back and Bow again, then to the Port and thence to Starboard, and up and down, all so gentle and smooth with the pilot chatting away over the intercom.

Here it was that a new record was made, on land this time, for did not a car travel at 62 m.p.h. on the airfield, not once but twice, each occasion being driven by a Dark Eyed T.B. One? Praises indeed to Ben, whose nerves held out, although rumour told me that at the conclusion of the drive Ben's hands were slightly clammy.

And again speed was recorded when Robert the Young, he whose natural progress is by swimming, won at a great pace the "Marathon of the Perimeter?" spake his escort... "Cor lumme, he can't half go, if I am as good as that at his age I shan't worry." Good old Bob.

The scribe could go on for many a page, but space is short, so on behalf of all the Dark Eyed Ones, thank you, Camp Committee; thank you, helpers; thank you, Gun Crew; and in fact, Thanks for the Memory. It is well written, "Trust the Navy."

JOHN A. MUDGE.

### Brighton Club Notes

The outdoor season of bowls is closing in, during which time we have been most favoured with the weather and had some wonderful outings. On the 24th July we had a very interesting match against the Blind Bowls Club, which was arranged under the kind auspices of the Eastbourne Bowling Club. A team of "A" St. Dunstaners played against an "A" team of Eastbourne Blind for the Arthur Rush Cup. For a considerable part of the game St. Dunstan's were in the lead, but the final result was Eastbourne winning by twelve shots to eleven.

The Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., and all St. Dunstaners resident in the Brighton area are welcome.

FRANK A. RHODES.

### Personal

To all St. Dunstaners I have met through the years I say "Farewell." Wishing you all the best—not forgetting the wives.

"GOLDIE."



## Talking Book Library

### September's Mixed Bag

Six books, as different from each other as chalk from cheese, comprise this month's quota.

"The Gypsy's Baby," by Richmal Crompton, reader John de Manio, is a light, entertaining little piece. The vicar's wife feels the baby, a golden-haired, chubby mite, ought to be adopted, and too many ladies of the village offer themselves as candidates. Rivalry and the various mixtures of dread and delight at the prospect of adopting the child, together with the background affairs of each candidate, make a good yarn. A flamboyant film director on location also adds to the general flutter. *Cat. No. 135.*

"Thicker than Water," by Frank Tilsley, reader John Webster, is the story of a too loyal family who can't believe their black sheep could commit the serious crime of which he stands accused. A touching, poignant, too real study of the pangs suffered by a decent family when the police come around and accusations start flying. A story made powerful by its very ordinariness. *Cat. No. 153.*

"Bugles and a Tiger," by John Masters, reader Arthur Bush, is the autobiography of a Gurkha officer. The book is notable for the periods of training and tours of duty with sharp work on the N.W. Frontier. *Cat. No. 163.*

"Keys of the Kingdom," by A. J. Cronin, reader Norman Shelley, is an epic of an R.C. priest, simple, forthright and far too literal a Christian to be popular with his superiors. After 20 odd hard years in China he has to come home to be humiliated by those who would retire him to want and uselessness. At 70 he still manages somehow to repel all attacks. Losh mon, it's a lovely book! *Cat. No. 161.*

"The Quiet American," by Graham Greene, reader John de Manio, takes us to Vietnam where the Communist North is fighting the French, American-aided, South. This is mainly the investigation of the death of the "quiet American" by a British journalist. *Cat. No. 190.*

"Whiteoaks," by Mazo de la Roche, reader Eric Gillett, is the sequel to *Jalna* in the saga of the Canadian Whiteoaks family. *Cat. No. 360.*

"NELSON."

## Channel Escort

It was a very warm though cloudy Saturday night when I boarded the motor launch "Victor," as a member of the party which was to accompany Mr. Abilio Couto, the Brazilian millionaire lawyer, in his attempt to swim the Channel. We left the eastern arm of Dover Harbour about midnight and after a rather uneventful journey we arrived of Cap Griz Nez about 2.30 a.m. The night was still warm though the wind which had been about force 2 had risen to force 3, about ten knots an hour. Because of the swell the dinghy had some difficulty in reaching the shore and it was about 3.40 a.m. before we on the launch received the signal that Mr. Couto had entered the water.

It was his intention to swim very quickly for the first few hours and as the tide was on the ebb that would take him west of Dover, then the flow of the tide would sweep him east towards the South Goodwin lightship, and then again on the ebb tide he would swim north-west towards Dover again. Everything went well for the first two hours and we were some five miles from Cap Griz Nez, but the wind increased to force 4 and at one time it was feared the attempt would have to be abandoned. But luckily these conditions only lasted for a short time and the wind died down and dawn broke on a cloudless sky. Everyone on the launch settled down to a period of boredom which could only be broken by the passage of an occasional fishing trawler, and the hope that we might be fortunate enough to strike a shoal of mackerel. However, all thoughts of spinning for mackerel soon disappeared when about 6.30 a.m. thick fog descended with only forty yards visibility. Everyone on board, except myself, was needed to keep the swimmer and his escorting dinghy in sight, fortunately we were not within the shipping lanes so there was very little danger of being run down. The fog persisted for nearly three hours and we then emerged into brilliant sunshine, and we all began to be a little more cheerful. Mr. Couto was plodding his weary homeward way; we were unsuccessfully spinning for mackerel at last and all was well with the world. This illusion of peace only lasted for twenty minutes when again fog descended upon us. Visibility this time was about half a mile, but we were approaching the shipping lanes

and many of these larger ships often need about two miles to pull up. Added to this was the fact that our pilot, Capt. Hutchinson, of Gravesend, had been unable to take a bearing. We could now hear fog horns both from our left and our right. We were all asked to listen for the very distinctive horn of the South Goodwin lightship, which has a hic at the end, rather like a St. Dunstaner returning from the "White Horse." In the meantime, our swimmer was very happy, stopping every hour for his drink of either chicken soup or hot chocolate. After a period of listening we suddenly noticed that a fog horn to our right was getting very much louder and suddenly, out of the fog, appeared a cargo vessel of about six or seven thousand tons. Capt. Hutchinson flashed a signal for him to alter course as we had a Channel swimmer behind. At first he didn't take any notice and sailed straight for us. In a situation like this it is almost impossible for the pilot boat to alter course as the swimmer would be almost impossible to see in the water from the bridge of a ship of this size, so things looked rather sticky for a few minutes. Fortunately, however, the ship altered course and slowed down and danger was averted. Capt. Hutchinson then asked him through the megaphone for a bearing to the South Goodwin, but the officer on the bridge only shouted back, "April Fool." However, when our request was repeated he gave us one which told us that we were two miles from the lightship, a wonderful piece of navigation on the part of Capt. Hutchinson. Half an hour later the fog cleared and almost simultaneously we heard the fog horn of the lightship. Mr. Couto was still swimming very strongly and we suddenly realised that he had only five miles to go, as the lightship is only three miles from Dover. The tide was right, there was a south-easterly wind and he had only to keep up his present speed to make the crossing well within the record of ten hours fifty minutes. We conveyed this news to him and his only reaction was to ask for a cup of tea. We on board were much more excited by the prospect of a record swim than he was. We were then in the midst of the Channel shipping, and I was impressed by the way in which ships large and small either slowed down or crossed our stern when they realised that we had a swimmer behind. Many of them

flashed messages of goodwill—and one ship flying the United Nations flag, had its deck rails packed by people waving and shouting what I assumed was either good luck, or "Do you want a lift?" The tide was now running a little stronger and we could see that Mr. Couto was flagging a bit. There was no danger of him not making the shore, but we could see the chances of a record swim disappear as the hours slipped by. We were only a mile from St. Margaret's Bay when he stopped for a drink of soup, and the few minutes spent in drinking this put him back half an hour, so strong was the tide. Our next landmark after we missed St. Margaret's Bay was a rather rocky and deserted beach to the west. If we missed this it would mean that he would have to swim for another two or three hours and land west of Dover. Fortunately, when we told him this he made a supreme effort and entered slack water and made land about 4.25 p.m., nearly two hours outside the Egyptian's record; still comparatively fresh and very happy, to be greeted by both the Press and T.V. cameras. When I asked Mr. Couto why he didn't make a greater effort when he heard that he was within record time, he replied, that his intention was to swim the Channel this time without any thought of records. And he also told me that next year he intended to make the crossing from England to France, a much more difficult one owing to the rather narrow point which Cap Griz Nez offers for landing. If one misses this, the current makes it difficult to make a landing further inshore.

I wonder why so many people spend so much time and money in attempting this swim; it can cost nearly a hundred pounds, without travelling expenses. For many of the smaller nations of the world it has become a matter of national prestige, to some it is a matter of personal gain, but to the majority it is the simple satisfaction of having joined a very small but select band of people. Since 1875, when Capt. Webb was the first to swim the Channel up to the present moment, only fifty-five of the hundreds who have attempted to swim the Channel have been successful. There is very little physical danger; only once when a swimmer swallowed a jelly fish which caused temporary paralysis, might there have been a fatal accident, and once when a swimmer rather foolhardily attempted to swim alone without



a pilot launch and pushing all the stuff he needed in front of him, has there been a fatality. I think the greatest obstacles to overcome are the hazards of the English climate and boredom. One must be of a very philosophical frame of mind to accept defeat in this manner; it is very rare that a swimmer is successful at the first attempt. Mr. Couto made four unsuccessful attempts last year. Personally I still prefer the cross-Channel ferry. As a Scot even the thought of saving a few pounds wouldn't tempt me.

*Westcliff-on-Sea.*

M. BURNS, M.C.S.P.

### The Deaf Reunion

Once again the deaf boys have met at Ovingdean, and a wonderful time we had. We started off with dinner with Matron, Dr. O'Hara and Mr. Banks. Our "Comm." was on holiday and we all wish him the best of weather and a happy holiday.

On the Friday we went to where they make the "Merrydown" Cider, and if you have not had any, try one. One is enough. If you have two, you start to sing. It was the cleanest place I have ever seen and the making of this "Merrydown," was described to our escorts who told us in hand signs. It got more interesting as we went from place to place, but the most interesting part was sampling it. And did we enjoy it!

On Saturday afternoon we had a lovely sea-trip in a cabin cruiser. We sailed under a very good captain, Mr. Laurence Legg, and to him we say thanks. It was like sailing on a mill pond. Our escorts looked after us so well we were sorry when it was over.

Sunday we went out to Pearson House to play dominoes but we were swamped. We weren't good enough for those lads, but we met old pals and Matron gave us a lovely supper. On Monday we met the Welfare Officers from Headquarters—Mr. Wills, Miss Midgeley and Miss Rogers. We each had something to say and after a nice tea it was time to get ready for the final dinner, which turned out to be one of the happiest I can remember. Our thanks to Matron, Mrs. Macdonald, Miss Carlton and all who worked so hard to make us happy. Thanks to them all, and the staff, for another happy reunion.

BILLY BELL.

### News from South Africa

James E. Ellis, of Cape Town ("Jimmy" to his many friends here), is a member of the Committee of the Lighthouse Club and he has been nominated as a delegate to the Biennial Conference of the South African National Council for the Blind, which is being held in Port Elizabeth this month. Another interesting committee on which he serves is that of the "Hulp Fond," which disburses money raised by a word competition in an African newspaper. The recipients are mostly people in straitened circumstances. Jimmy tells us that the proceedings are conducted in Afrikaans, and whilst not yet fluent in the language, he is able to follow the discussions and has actually made representations in Afrikaans on behalf of blind people.

In the June Newsletter of the Lighthouse Club appeared the following:—

*"The League of the Friends of the Blind Hostel for Non-European Women.*—We are very happy to report that through the good offices of Mr. Ellis, acting for the Lighthouse Club, this hostel now has a fine piano and we hope they will have a lot of fun out of it. Mr. Ellis is to be congratulated on his efforts in our name, and we look forward to the day when he will take his trumpet to Grassey Park and give them a show. Mr. Ellis, an official of St. Dunstan's and a St. Dunstaner himself, is a valued member of the Lighthouse Club, and through him we have been privileged to demonstrate that the Lighthouse Club is an organisation in which we welcome anyone blind, or who is a friend or connection of any blind person, whether blindness was due to war injury or to some civil causation, and we would be proud and happy to welcome any St. Dunstaner as a member. We already have a couple as it is."

### Mr. Frank Forsdick

Mr. F. Forsdick retires at the end of September after thirty-two years' service with St. Dunstan's. He joined the staff in November, 1926, to work as a traveller in the Sales Department under Mr. Harry Bennett. In August, 1945, he became one of our Shop Supervisors and in this capacity he has become known to many of our shop-keepers, who have not only welcomed him to their homes as a visitor, but as a friend. They will join with us in wishing him happiness and many years of quiet contentment in his retirement.

## From All Quarters

An order has been placed on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, for two coconut fibre mats for Royal Lodge, Windsor.

★ ★ ★

In July, M. Burns, of Westcliff-on-Sea, fought a Municipal by-election for the Chalkwell Ward of Southend; while he was defeated, he reduced his opponent's majority by nearly four hundred.

★ ★ ★

J. Daly, of Liverpool, recently had an unexpected visit from his sister who lives in Canada. They had not met for twenty-seven years.

★ ★ ★

Dorothy Edwards, of Yeovil, went out fishing from Lyme Regis. Her catch—a nine-inch mackerel!

★ ★ ★

At Cudham Flower and Vegetable Show, H. Watford took first prizes for potatoes, dwarf beans and the largest marrow. Mrs. Watford won a first prize for a bowl of floating flowers and a second for a sponge cake.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Margaret Stanway, of Morecambe, has had three letters accepted for publication in *John Bull*.

★ ★ ★

Many St. Dunstaners will know of the beautiful model boats which George Fallowfield makes from cigar boxes sent to him by Sir Winston Churchill. An 85-year-old lady living in Acocks Green, Birmingham, also heard of them and, through the Appeals Department, wrote to George. At her request he has modelled for her a perfect little wheelbarrow, and the story was reported in the *Birmingham Mail*, who also published a picture.

★ ★ ★

A. Sterno, recently of Bath, has just retired and now lives at Southampton. On July 26th, the *Bath and Wilts. Chronicle and Herald* devoted an entire page to the story of his life since he was a young man in St. Petersburg. The *Chronicle* described it as a story "whose elements are ambition, adventure, tragedy, courage, devotion and success. In it is spotlighted a colourful Bath figure who has only just left the city after many years, to make his new home in Southampton."

## The Westbury Camp

Thanks once again to Miss Oliphant, her Committee, our old stalwart friends who wait at our tables, and the new ones who came along this year, another enjoyable time was had by all at Westbury from the 8th to 18th July. Once again we were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Glasgow, the Westbury Women's Section of the British Legion; the British Legion Club of Hinton Charteris; Toc H; the Trowbridge Branch of the Infantry Training School. The rest can be summed up in the letter "M."

First, Mushrooms. We were taken around a mushroom farm at Bradford-on-Avon, where in caves dug half a mile into an old quarry, we were shown the cultivation of mushrooms from the preparing of the compost to the full grown mushroom. Very interesting indeed, especially as we had a jolly good sample for brekker the next morning.

Mounts was the second "M"—racing at Salisbury and Bath.

The third "M" was a visit to a Monastery at Cerne Abbas in Dorset where we were shown around by the Franciscan brothers and entertained to tea in their Dining Hall. Father Christopher, the acting head, was asked the meaning of the three knots tied in their girdles and his explanation—that the first knot was tied on the entry of the novice, who took the first vow of Obedience; the second, Chastity; and the third, Poverty, when he gave up all his goods and chattels to become a full Franciscan brother, impressed everybody.

The fourth "M" was encountered by only a few when seven of us in a Land Rover broke away from the convoy, and after refuelling at a wayside pub, went on to see the Mammoth guardian of a village. This is the outline of a giant figure cut in the chalk and is said to be older than Stonehenge. If this was the Third programme, I could give you a full description of this Colossus. I can say, however, that the weapon he carries, a club, is over sixty feet in length and his vital statistics uphold the superiority of the male.

I could write on and on about the Camp and still not say all I would like to, but I must mention a skittle match that took place between a mixed team of Legionnaires and St. Dunstaners, captained by Harry



Parrett, "The Wallopers," and the "Lazy Loungers," captained by Charlie Kelk. The winners were the "Lazy Loungers." No wonder. Charlie was a wonderful skipper with his velvet hand gently stroking the napes of his team, making them purr with delight.

A wonderful Camp. Thanks, everyone.  
"GEN."

### Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Potter, of Hastings, who celebrated their Golden Wedding on July 27th. It was also Mrs. Potter's 71st birthday. Many nice things were said about them in the *Hastings and St. Leonards Observer*.

### 45th Wedding Anniversary

Mr and Mrs. W. Boyle, of Stockport, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary at the beginning of August. Many congratulations.

### Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. Dimond, of East Grinstead, whose ruby wedding was on June 22nd; to Mr. and Mrs. G. Wardle, of Brixworth, who celebrated theirs on August 4th; to Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Manning, of Northampton, whose anniversary was on August 6th; and to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Attrell, of Polegate, who had been married for forty years on August 17th.

### Silver Weddings

Celebrating silver weddings are Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Edmonds, of Ewell (August 5th); and Mr. and Mrs. John Hawkins, of Sidcup (September 16th). Congratulations.

Mr. Hawkins writes: "My wife and I celebrate our Silver Wedding on September 16th. These past twenty-five years have been golden ones to me, with love and understanding patience through life's trials from a great little lady, my wife. Through the medium of the REVIEW I would like to express my most sincere and grateful thanks for this wonderful happiness."

### T.V. on a Fleetwood Trawler

Edmund Vaughan, of Poulton-le-Fylde, sends us the following most interesting extract from the *West Lancashire Evening Gazette*. The radio operator mentioned is his eldest son, Kenneth, who is a Chief Radio Officer with some 28 years' service

at sea. Kenneth, who made several rescue trips at Dunkirk in 1940, was the youngest boy in the British Isles ever to obtain the Postmaster General's First Class Certificate for Wireless Telegraphy. His latest achievement, reported below, was also widely referred to in the national press the same day.

"The 426-ton Fleetwood trawler, SSAFA, one of the most modern of the port's middle water fleet of vessels, is really living up to her reputation for 'all mod. con.'"

She is first in the field with the latest line in comforts for the crew—television.

The set, a 17 in. model installed in the crew's recreation room by 42-year-old radio operator, Mr. Kenneth Vaughan, is designed to give the men all the comforts of home during the most boring part of their voyage, the 24 hours to the fishing grounds and the trip back after the catch has been stowed away.

Mr. Vaughan said on Saturday, "Everyone seems to be getting television so I thought of putting a set aboard."

"It has been in the experimental stages up to now but they have proved successful and we can get a reasonably good picture."

### From Miss Pease

My dear St. Dunstan's Friends,

I have just had the most unexpected letter from Mr. Wills, and I hardly know how to thank you all for the news it contained, or tell you how very grateful I am that you should wish to do this for me.

I have chosen something I have been longing for ever since we moved into this old Georgian house—a reproduced Regency dining table—which exactly fits, and tones in with, our rather long dining room; and your very generous gift will also make possible the addition of a small silver plate on the cross-bar, saying who has given me the table.

I am delighted with it, and hope that a St. Dunstaner and his wife will be the first guests to sit down to it with us.

I also want to thank you all for the kindness and hospitality you have shown me for so many years. I shall treasure the memories of many happy visits to your homes and families, and I shall look forward to meeting many of you at the Reunion next year.

With renewed thanks, and the best of good wishes to every one of you.

PHYLLIS E. PEASE.

## Family News

Corinne Lambert, Highbury, has passed her B.A. Honours Degree in English and has been awarded an Upper Second.

Helen Embleton, Trimdon Village, Co. Durham, has been awarded a Major University Scholarship and enters Nottingham University next month.

Pamela Carlton, Morecambe, has won a Silver Cup as the best rider at her Riding School.

Brian Lethbridge played cricket for Oldham Town Junior Schoolboys' team and was awarded a Town Badge.

Cedric Langton, of Bottesford, Nottinghamshire, plays cricket for three teams and is captain of the Under 14 team. An all round sportsman, he also captains the Junior Football team.

A sports girl this time—Sandra Barkby, of New Parks, Leicester, who came second in the breast stroke race (girls under 13) at the City Schools' Swimming Gala.

Ten year old Raymond Varley, Birmingham, has won his first certificate with a first class pass for accordion playing.

Leslie Vowles, Portsmouth, won the All-England Gold Medal for tap dancing and also for song and dance.

Little Julie Vowles, who is only three, was fourth in the competition for duet dancing in the All-England Dancing Finals.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

Harry Howes, Thornaby-on-Tees, in August, to Miss Doris Brooks.

On July 29th, Brian Weldrick, Hull, to Miss Mary Jones, of Ireland.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Clarke, of Manchester, was married to Miss C. Lyons, on July 12th.

Kenneth Payne, Grangetown, Cardiff, to Miss Joan Crook, on July 26th.

Thelma Parker, Grantham, on July 5th, to Mr. Anthony Skellett.

Lastly a marriage which will be of particular interest to St. Dunstaners. On August 23rd, Sylvia Lawson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lawson, of Stretton, near Warrington, was married to Mr. Joseph Charman. As a little girl of five, Sylvia was blinded in the same air raid which blinded our St. Dunstaner and his wife, and therefore we have always followed her career with a particularly affectionate interest.

## Births

CRADDOCK.—On August 2nd, to the wife of R. Craddock, of Warrington, a son.

HARMER.—On September 6th, to the wife of A. J. Harmer, of Rubery, near Birmingham, a son.

LIPSCOMBE.—On July 18th, to the wife of F. Lipscombe, of St. Loyes', Exeter, a son—Alan Thomas.

MAJOR.—On August 22nd, to the wife of R. F. Major, of Moordown, Bourne-mouth, a daughter—Melanie Jane.

WALTON.—On August 30th, to the wife of J. B. K. Walton, of Sunderland, a daughter—Jeannette Susan.

WILLIAMS.—On August 6th, to the wife of C. C. Williams, of Beckenham, a daughter—Denise Elaine.

## Marriage

HARRY—KEMPSTER.—On August 23rd, at Wimbledon, Peter M. Harry, of Ewenny, near Bridgend, Glamorgan, to Miss Patricia Denise Kempster. Our St. Dunstaner is a physiotherapy trainee, his wife is a physiotherapist, and his father is also a physiotherapist.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes this month to the following:—

BAIN.—To F. E. Bain, of West Hartlepool, whose wife died on July 25th.

DAWSON.—To G. A. Dawson, of Bishop Auckland, who lost his wife very suddenly on August 15th.

JOHNSON.—To L. Johnson, of Bishops Stortford, whose wife died on July 26th.

SMITH.—To Gordon Smith, of Rottingdean, whose mother died in Newcastle on July 27th. Mr. Smith is physiotherapist at Pearson House.

★ ★ ★

Mr. and Mrs. T. Till, of Lancaster, suffered a double bereavement at the end of July. Our St. Dunstaner lost two brothers-in-law. His sister's husband died in Arizona and Mrs. Till's brother died at the same time.

★ ★ ★

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Mrs. S. Cole, of Swansea, widow of our St. Dunstaner who died in August of last year. Mrs. Cole died on July 31st, whilst staying with her niece. She leaves two married step-daughters to whom our sincere sympathy is sent in this second bereavement.



## “In Memory”

### Rifleman Alfred Paul Victor Crook, 16th King's Royal Rifles

With deep regret we record the death of A. P. V. Crook, of Thornton Heath. He was 67.

It was in 1917 that he first came to St. Dunstan's and he trained originally as a basket-maker. He had been a variety artist and after his training with us he and his wife continued to tour the music halls. In 1921 he left us as having too much sight but came back two years later. He continued with basket-making and later did stools and wool rugs, but he had given up this work some time ago.

Alfie was a well-known figure at London gatherings in the early days, and the Bridge Club will remember him as one of their founder members, although he had not been able to take an active part for some years.

He leaves a widow and married daughter, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private Albert Henry Kay, 14th East Lancashire Regiment

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. H. Kay, of Letchworth, at the age of 71.

He came to St. Dunstan's in September, 1917, and trained as a netter and continued with his craft until 1951. Upon the death of his wife he became a permanent resident at Brighton and he died at Ovingdean on August 29th.

Our deep sympathy is offered to his step-children.

### Private Patrick Leary, Royal Fusiliers (R.A.F. Labour Corps)

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. Leary, of Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Eire. He was 66.

Enlisting in February, 1915, he came to St. Dunstan's in October, 1931, but he did not train for any occupation. He had been in poor health for some time.

Our deep sympathy is extended to his sister and step-children.

### Lance Corporal Evan Owen, 20th Royal Welsh Fusiliers

With deep regret we have to record the death of E. Owen, of Treorchy, Glamorgan. He was 68.

He served with his regiment from December, 1914, until November, 1915, and came to us the following year.

His health had been very poor recently but his death was nevertheless very sudden.

To his widow and family our deep sympathy is sent.

### Petty Officer Samat bin Samat, B.E.M., Merchant Navy

It is with deep regret that we record the death of our Malayan St. Dunstaner, Samat bin Samat, of North Shields. He had served in our Merchant Navy from his enlistment in 1915 until his discharge in 1945, and won his decoration for saving several men from drowning when his ship was torpedoed. In his youth he had been in the service of Rajah Brooke Senior, in Sarawak. It was only in 1952 that he came to St. Dunstan's and his age prevented any training, but he was very proud of being a St. Dunstaner and was intensely interested in all our activities.

He was a widower with a daughter, to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private William Henry Watson, Lincolnshire Regiment

We record with deep regret the death of W. H. Watson, of Shirebrook, near Mansfield. He was 78.

He enlisted in December, 1914, and came to St. Dunstan's in March, 1925. He was not able to take any training owing to his very poor health, and he had endured this for many years.

To his widow and family our deep sympathy is tendered.

### David Simmers, Cape Corps (South African Forces)

We have heard with deep regret of the death of one of our non-European beneficiaries, David Simmers, of Johannesburg, South Africa. He died suddenly on June 28th at the age of 43.

He served in the Second World War with the Cape Corps. After training at St. Dunstan's (South Africa) he became a skilled basket-maker.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and her family. He leaves eight children, the eldest of whom is eighteen and the youngest one and a half years.

### Lieutenant C. E. Van Rhijn, Women's Army Auxiliary Service (South Africa)

We have heard with deep regret of the death of Mrs. C. E. Van Rhijn, a beneficiary of the 1939-45 war. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her husband.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### Playing Bridge

PASTIMES, hobbies and games available to the blind are necessarily limited in number. All the more reason to make use of those that have proved themselves. Contract bridge is one of these.

For the greater part of my lifetime, most of my evenings have been engaged and therefore I have never had the opportunity, even if I had the ability, to become a really first-class bridge player. Though I know that a few St. Dunstaners are extremely good, reaching what might be classed match play standard, I am more the sort of chap who plays family bridge rather than club bridge.

I am not, therefore, writing about this subject as an expert, but merely as one who has derived enormous pleasure from the game and wishes to encourage others who may be a little nervous or a little lazy not to miss this splendid source of interest and fun.

Bridge is a considerable mental effort, but strangely enough I do not find this trying. Indeed, after a really busy day, a game of bridge is a change of mental activity which I find positively refreshing.

It takes four people to play bridge and this is an important aspect because a bridge party is not only a first-class game but is also a very sociable, pleasant affair, and many friendships are made or improved thereby. One of the difficulties is to get a start, for you must find three friends who are reasonably good at the game but who are nevertheless patient enough to put up with a beginner, bearing in mind that his mistakes often spoil the game for the others. But do not be deterred by this. Most people are a little unselfish some of the time and it is really worth while getting over the initial difficulties for the pleasure that comes after.

I am, of course, writing for those who are totally blind, or at any rate so blind that they really cannot see the dummy or even recognise their own cards, however dimly. If you can see a bit, circumstances are quite different and no special problem arises.

I hold my cards in my right hand and feel them with my left thumb. I would be interested to learn what other really blind persons do.

I will not worry the ordinary reader with details as to how to play bridge but if anyone wants some information, I will get a leaflet put together on the subject, more especially after some of my regular bridge playing friends have written to tell me what they think and how they go about it.

I have just enjoyed a sea voyage from South Africa during which I played bridge with various fellow passengers for probably twelve nights. I found that I was just about as good or bad as the average player on the ship. I expect I slowed the game down just a little and of course I had to put my fellow players to the trouble of calling the card as it was played and of telling me the dummy when it was put down. There is no way out of this, but it is my experience that certainly in the case of the friendly kind of bridge I play, nobody minds helping to this extent.

FRASER OF LONSDALE.



### Scottish Braille Press "Thistle Book Publications"

We are very pleased to bring to the attention of St. Dunstaners the new "Thistle" Book series now being published by the Scottish Braille Press. Those wishing to obtain any of these books should apply to Mr. Christopher at Men's Supplies.

The books are all "best sellers" in their own particular category and one new "Thistle" book will be published each month. Here is a list of the "Thistle" books which can now be ordered, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 being obtainable immediately, while the remainder will be published between now and March, 1959.

"Thistle" Book No. 1—"My Story," by Matt Busby. The major football events of the last decade discussed by one of the game's leading authorities.—3 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 2—"The Case of the Angry Mourner," by Erle Gardner. Perhaps the most intriguing Perry Mason case so far written by this famous mystery writer.—3 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 3—"Balefire," by Nigel Tranter. The story of a famous feud between the Border burghs of Hawick and Hexham dating from the grim days of Flodden.—4 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 4—"The House Next Door," by Lionel White. This American thriller is one of the famous "Bloodhound" mystery series.—3 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 5—"The Man in My Grave," by William Tucker. The story of a gruesome business such as would have set the shades of Burke and Hare chuckling in Hades.—3 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 6—"End of an Innings," by Denis Compton. An autobiography which surveys 20 years of brilliant sporting achievement.—4 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 7—"Doctor in Love," by Richard Gordon. Like its predecessors in the "Doctor" series, this book will delight all who enjoy good fun.—3 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 8—"The Peacock Palace," by George Blake. The gripping story of the somewhat riotous life of a lovely girl who was acquitted of murder under the Scots verdict of "Not Proven."—4 vols.

"Thistle" Book No. 9—"Death and the Golden Boy," by Nigel Morland. A plot thrill-packed and full of frankly mad-cap drama.—3 vols.

### The London Reunion

Friday, October 3rd, again saw nearly 150 St. Dunstaners and their escorts gathered together at the Windsor Rooms, Coventry Street Corner House, for the London Reunion, and, incidentally, to greet their Chairman for the first time as Lord Fraser of Lonsdale.

Representing all St. Dunstaners present, Mr. S. C. Tarry, of Wandsworth, congratulated Lord Fraser upon the honour which had been conferred upon him, coupling with their good wishes the name of Lady Fraser. Mr. Tarry also recalled to those present "the many good friends who are no longer with us, foremost among them, Sir Arthur Pearson."

A beautiful bouquet was then presented by Mrs. Sammy Webster to Lady Fraser, who expressed her pleasure and thanks.

Replying, Lord Fraser said that in mentioning the names of Mr. Wills, Miss Rogers, Miss Dodd and Miss Moseley, his vote of thanks to them would be a vote of thanks to all who had helped in this excellent Reunion (Miss Midgely was most unfortunately unable to attend owing to an accident that day). Lord Fraser thanked Mr. Tarry for his remarks, recalling their days at St. Dunstan's in 1915 and 1916, and he paid a warm reference to "that wonderful lady, with whom I have recently celebrated my ruby wedding." They had just returned from a business trip to South Africa and brought with them the good wishes of South African St. Dunstaners. Lord Fraser then mentioned the categories of St. Dunstaners there that night—the word "retired" was a misnomer in the case of St. Dunstaners, for the one thing St. Dunstan's had taught its men was how to remain occupied. With them that night was Captain F. J. Woodcock, of Toronto, who was blinded in the Second World War and was now taking an active part in work for Canadian blind, and in particular, the war-blinded. He was a very welcome guest and through him, they would send good wishes to our Canadian colleagues.

In conclusion, Lord Fraser spoke of the severing of his Parliamentary connections ... "Perhaps I shall miss many of my old associations, but although I may have retired from some of my activities, I have not retired from St. Dunstan's." (Applause).

## London Club Notes

*Bridge.*—*St. Dunstan's Week at Harrogate.* A party of seven bridge players, Messrs. Cook, Fisher, Gover, Jolly, Nuyens, Rhodes and Thompson, visited Harrogate again this year from September 13th—20th. It was indeed a happy party as usual and our team of eight was made up with the help of Wally Burgess from Harrogate. We visited all the usual Golf and Bridge Clubs in the area, winning two matches and losing two. Our best team effort in the Sunday teams of four was to finish third out of nine and the team was, Gover, Jolly, Nuyens and Thompson. In the Pairs event held at the Campbell's Bridge Club on the Monday evening, our best pair was Rhodes and Burgess, who finished TOP of the East-West section.

We held our usual "At Home" at the Dirlton Hotel on the Friday evening and we had even a bigger crowd than usual. There were fifteen and a half tables—a real, friendly social gathering. All the prizes were articles made by St. Dunstan's men and were much appreciated.

Once again at Harrogate we had the company of Bob Willis and as usual, he was a great help to me and, indeed, to every member of the party.

H. GOVER.

*Bridge.*—Four members of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club took part in the B.B.C. Bridge Programme on Network 3 on Tuesday, September 16th, and not on September 23rd as had been originally planned. The members of the team were Messrs. G. P. "Jock" Brown, E. Gover, P. Nuyens and F. A. Rhodes. Great interest was aroused in the broadcast. Mr. Donald Pearson, an old friend of St. Dunstan's, who organises the Ilkley Congress in aid of St. Dunstan's each year, also spoke, and listeners heard our team play a hand against four players of international status. Mr. Terence Reese and Mr. Harold Franklin were the commentators.

## Grandfathers

P. Holmes, of Burgess Hill; and new grandchildren also for W. H. Dunn, of Prittlewell; D. W. Woodget, of Winton, near Bournemouth; W. S. Fray, of Salisbury; D. J. Williams, of Cardiff; R. Robinson, of Cookstown, Northern Ireland; G. H. Thomas, of Solihull, Warwickshire; and W. J. Roberts, of Southend-on-Sea.

## London Transport 'Bus Passes

St. Dunstaners holding London Transport 'bus passes have in previous years been sent a renewal form for completion. This year renewal forms will not be sent out but the pass tickets will be issued automatically at the end of December.

## Successes

Margaret Stanway, of Morecambe, received a Certificate of Merit for a rug which she submitted to the Hobbies Exhibition in London.

T. McKay, of Brighton, was awarded a bronze plaque at the International Handicrafts and Do It Yourself Exhibition at Olympia. He submitted a nest of coffee tables in oak and the standard of his work made an excellent impression. Mr. McKay has severe injuries to his hands (he also has lost a leg) and he was eligible to enter the Heavily Disabled Class, but he preferred not to do so. It will be remembered that last year he received a silver award for a grandfather clock.

## Camp Thoughts

of one recovering from a car accident

*If you're feeling sick and glum  
Or crushed by motor car,  
If you're needing gin and rum  
And like an open bar,  
And if old Austin runs too slow  
To get you down to Lee,  
Just get a Rover, make it go  
Until you reach the sea  
And there you'll find the merriest crowd  
The best you'll ever meet,  
A gang that makes old England proud,  
St. Dunstan's men you'll greet.  
And then with Avis planning all,  
They'll swim, dance, walk and run,  
The slim and fat—the short and tall,  
They're out for all the fun.  
There's Drummer, Bob, and Dick and Joe,  
There's Tom and Jerry tall,  
You'll never meet where'er you go  
Such gallant fellows all.  
So if you're feeling sick and glum,  
Just make for camp at Lee,  
You'll soon be well, with lots of rum  
And the grand gang from St. D.*

B.E.T.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

With space restrictions both in the braille and print copies of the REVIEW, I fear that a column such as suggested by M. Burns for theatre and cinema guidance would be beyond the bounds of possibility. Such a column, to be a good job, would take an enormous amount of space.

I would imagine that the national press and radio excerpts and criticisms would be a fair guide; also a lot can be learned from conversations with sighted persons who are theatre lovers or film fans.

The national press employs drama critics, theatre gossipers, etc., in a full-time capacity, so why not let the work of these persons be used. One can surely pick out from such columns something to one's taste. I am not aware of the position in Southend regarding Rep. but usually such districts have a reputable Repertory company which puts on excellent shows. As one whose interest in the theatre is keen, may I suggest to our readers that to support Rep. is to support the Nursery of Stars of Histrionics of the future.

Very sincerely,

*Saltdean.*

JOHN A. MUDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

My feeling is that Micky Burns' suggestion of a column on theatres, books and films could be of no benefit to St. Dunstaners generally. Firstly, a large number of us live in rural areas where there are no theatres, and a whole day is required to visit one in the nearest large town that boasts one. Secondly, there is ample publicity in the Press and on the wireless to plays and films, together with critics' reviews. Thirdly, Micky could ask for *Progress* to be sent to him which carries a monthly series for interested readers, without further cluttering up our REVIEW.

I listen in to Movie-go-round with its excerpts from current films and often I think I would like to hear the whole thing, but when I get to Brighton where there are several cinemas, I find that there is never anything at any of them which appeals to me sufficiently to take me away from the sun, the sea, and the sand.

How can anybody say which is or which is not suitable for blind people, seeing that we all have different tastes?

Yours sincerely,

*Castle Cary.*

JACK RADFORD.

DEAR EDITOR,

*Progress* contains a play, film and book review and if a man who can hear cannot get enough read to him from printed play and film reviews, and doesn't take the trouble to write for *Progress*, he isn't worth the space in our small magazine.

The R.N.I.B. also sends out a free catalogue of their publications periodically.

A good reader and play and film goer doesn't need our REVIEW cluttered up with this information.

I do not appreciate filling several pages of every braille magazine with the announcement of reading competitions of the National Library for the Blind. These details could be combined in the catalogue they send out every alternative month, and I may say here that these free catalogues give a brief review and description of each book.

Last month I read in every magazine about the Circle of Guide Dog Owners. "Home Topics" in the *New Beacon* is exactly the same as "Matters of the Moment" in *Progress*. The Brussels Exhibition has been described several times under different headings in the *Science Journal* and others.

What we want is a larger variety of short, different work in magazines rather than the same reports, reviews and announcements.

Yours sincerely,

*Southwick.*

G. FALLOWFIELD.

The EDITOR says:—

Even if it were humanly possible for someone to attend every theatre and film production in London, the length of run for a play or film in the West End is unpredictable; a recommendation might appear in the REVIEW when a theatre production had ended or a film had already been released in some districts.

The answer to Micky Burns' suggestion therefore seems to be: A column in the REVIEW is not a good medium, but St. Dunstaners should follow the newspaper and radio critics if possible and study the Braille Library catalogues. They will then get a pretty good idea of what is good in the world of plays, films and books. If, however, someone should come across a play, film or book which can be thoroughly recommended (and in the case of a play, looks like running for a long while), let him tell the REVIEW.

## Presentation of Colours

On August 14th, J. Mitchell, of Edinburgh, went to Munster, Germany, as a guest for the Presentation of Colours to his regiment, the First Battalion Seaforth Highlanders. The Presentation was made by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templar, Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Our St. Dunstaner writes:

"Mrs. Mitchell and I arrived at Munster at 12 noon and were received by the Regimental Sergeant Major and three Sergeants with transport, and we journeyed to the barracks. Then we were immediately handed over to a Sergeant and his wife who had been detailed to attend to our wants. We had a wonderful reception from the Commanding Officer. Now for the ceremony . . .

"The battalion was formed up ready for the Inspecting Officer, who was none other than Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templar. After inspecting the ranks he described his former connection with the Seaforth Highlanders and I discovered that his regiment, the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and Seaforths relieved each other in the trenches in the First World War.

"My sensations when the Old Colours were being trooped for the last time were very sad, and as the band stopped 'Auld Lang Syne' as the Colours disappeared, the tears were streaming down my cheeks.

"We dispersed and the guests (there were nine of us) were told to meet the Field Marshal in the Sergeants' Mess. When he reached me he asked when I joined the Army, where I was in the First World War, and when I said, 'With you,' he immediately took a seat and conversed for ten or fifteen minutes. I am told there is a good photograph of us both, laughing."

## A Misunderstanding

It happened at Lee.

*St. Dunstaner*: "Is there a sailor there?"

*Sailor*: "Yes. Did you want me?"

*St. Dunstaner*: "Can you take me to the Stables?"

*Sailor*: "Sure. Come along."

They depart. Shortly afterwards the St. Dunstaner is shown into . . . a lavatory.

[Dictionary note for the uninitiated:—**STABLES**: Name given by St. Dunstaners to place where horses are read over and bets placed.]

*West Worthing.*

J. T. COOK (Capt.).

## Tales of Ind

### Eyes Right

It was V.E. day in Dehra Dun and a military parade had been arranged to celebrate the occasion. A saluting base had been erected and a large number of spectators had assembled near it.

Down the road came the troops headed by some five huge tanks rumbling along. These were followed by an English regiment, then came a regiment of American troops. Following them came an Irish regiment with their pipers, who were followed by an Indian Army unit. Then there followed four lorries. Standing in the lorries in rigid ranks were ex-servicemen, with white hospital dress and round white caps on their heads. They were all Indians, except for a British officer who stood at the head of them in the first lorry. The spectators looked curiously at the men standing so smartly to attention as they slowly passed them. Suddenly the order, "Eyes right!" rang out from the leading lorry and every head in those standing ranks turned smartly to the right. There was a dead silence for a few moments which was broken by stifled sobs. A great surge of emotion swept through the spectators as they realised that . . . not one of those men standing so proudly in those ranks COULD SEE.

DUNCAN MCALPIN.

## Return to the Regiment

It is July 15th. At Westbury Camp about a score of St. Dunstaners with their escorts are awaiting transport to take them to Knook Camp, about eight miles away. They are to be given the opportunity of comparing the Army of their days to the Army of to-day. But first to put you in the picture.

For the past eleven years we have been the guests of the Infantry School where N.C.O.s and Officers of the British, Commonwealth and N.A.T.O. forces come to be brought up to date in the new methods of drill, weapons and tactics. The School is at Warminster. Nearby is the village of Imber. This village was evacuated in the early part of the Second World War to be used as a battle ground for training for D Day. Since then it has continued to act in a similar capacity but the villagers are allowed to return occasionally to attend service in the empty church. At Knook



Camp a few miles away is stationed the Demonstration Battalion whose job it is to try out new weapons, new battle tactics, etc. . . Officers and N.C.O.'s attending the course are put through their paces by experts drawn from various branches of the British Army. They then go to Imber where the Demonstration Battalion, with tanks and artillery, proceed to knock hell out of the village, tanks and infantry going into action just as in warfare. Hearing that this year and next my old regiment, the Somerset Light Infantry, would be the Demonstration Battalion, I got the Camp Committee to arrange a visit to Knook.

At 14.00 hours our transport arrived and we had our first glimpse of the Army going into action. The transport was a troop carrier. In the usual course of things, the carrier should have drawn up, the sides let down and the fully armed troops boarded and away in thirty seconds. We had to board her from the rear taking about twenty minutes, as some of us had to be hoisted up the two steep steps. At Knook Camp we were met by the Second in Command, the R.S.M., the Bugle Major and Staff Sergeants. I, being an ex-bugler of the Regiment, was given the Bugle Major as an escort, while Frankie Rhodes and Charlie Kelk had the R.S.M. I bet those two never thought forty years ago that they would one day be toddling along the barrack square arm in arm with the R.S.M.!

The first thing we came to was the buglers practising the routine calls. After giving us Defaulters, Long Reveille, and Officers' First Mess call, I expressed the wish to hear the Sambre et Meuse band and bugle march. The band could not be in attendance as they were cleaning up for a Regimental Guest Night but the buglers obliged by giving us the bugle part while the instructor strummed the band part, and I found that I had not forgotten one note or the time to come in.

Then on to the guns. First the new automatic Belgian rifle, weighing just 8lbs. 14 ozs., with conical foresight and aperture backsight; the bayonet just 10 in. long. Then to an anti-aircraft gun with 13ft. muzzle which fires a 10 lbs. shell and was exploded by four electric batteries which could be placed in a match box. Then on to what interested the old 'uns most, the old Vickers machine gun. It has had very few alterations and still holds pride of place in the hearts of the instructors.

Our old 'uns surprised the instructors on their memory of this weapon and when Freddy got behind one, he showed how it should be used. Gunner Wareham returns to do battle!

There was much more to be seen but time was drawing to a close as we had a rendezvous at Hinton Charteris, so we went on to the Sergeants' Mess where we were shown the beautiful silver cup just won the week before at Bisley by two Sergeants of the Regiment.

Here are a few facts that will interest the old 'uns. I must thank Lieut. Col. Urwich, editor of the *Regimental Light Bob Gazette*, who kindly answered some questions I asked him by letter.

The old unfix bayonets routine has been done away with. No six paces forward by the right-hand man. No standing by beds at First Post. Pay parade the same; if your name starts with a "Z" then you are last in the queue. Supper can be obtained up to 7.30 if ordered. Full marching order is now 30 lbs. compared with 90 lbs. in our day. Food is dished out in self-service style. There is a choice of grub; each man taking as much as he thinks his tummy will carry, but what he takes he must eat. No eyes bigger than tummies allowed. The sergeant in the mess told us of one man who not only took bacon and fried bread but five eggs, and put back the lot. No spuds to peel, no unfortunate orderly men to draw the food at the cook-house. No washing of knives or plates. It's all done by machines.

Oh you lads of the mulligatawny, cottage pie, bully beef stew, and "Give us a cap badge, cook, please," days. It is dinner at the Ritz in the Army of to-day. GEN.

## National Egg Laying Test

Final Period of Four Weeks.

August 12th—September 8th, 1958

	Test Score	Value	Awards
1. Bagwell, Philip ...	1257	£3	St. Dunstan's Challenge Cup Jacobs & Spearman Challenge Cup P.A.G.B. £3
2. Webb, W. ...	1184	£2	P.A.G.B. £2 Medallion Winter Certificate
3. Holmes, Percy ...	1142	£1	Medallion D.W.F.

### Backchat at the Barber's

Knife, fork, spoon, razor, lather brush, toothbrush, buttonstick. That was the "issue" forty years ago. The fourth item in those days was the old "cut-throat." When we returned from the wars, the habit of shaving with a "cut-throat" was not quite so simple as it had been. Not only that, but those of us who were prepared not to be outdone found other difficulties. In the wash-house it was necessary to keep one's ears pricked. It may be that the singing and humming we practised was a form of warning to each other that shaving was taking place. We often heard the cry, "open razor," which straightaway put us on guard and made us proceed with caution.

It is forty years now since the walking cases would gather at the end of No. 2 Ward, St. Mark's Hospital, Chelsea. We proceeded, snake formation, through these long corridors. Help came from all sides. It was a great event for us, this shaving lark. Eventually we found ourselves in the King's Road. All passers-by were ready and willing to put us on our way. The convoy arrived and even finding enough chairs for us was an excitement in itself. The whole business was a novelty. We waited for each other and there was just as much fun on the return journey.

To-day safety razors are taken for granted, electric or otherwise. They were just being born then and had many teething troubles for folks who looked into dull black mirrors. Here may I pay a tribute. My father bought me a "safety" on my nineteenth birthday at St. Mark's. Nearly every day since that razor has really been part of my life. It is still going strong and appears to be good for many years to come. Never has it had the aid of a mirror to do its job. Here's to my one and only safety razor, for forty years' of loyal and devoted service, thank you very much indeed.

*Streatham.*

W. T. SCOTT.

### What is a Classic?

"It has been a classic." The bestowal of this high award, by a B.B.C. compère upon twenty-two men for kicking a ball about, aroused conflicting thoughts in my mind, turning it into a court of inquiry wherein I was complainant, defendant and judge.

Proceedings commenced with complainant protesting against the misuse of that

rare distinction, "classic," asserting that it belonged to the realms of culture and the fine arts, not to spectacles at which balls of various size were thrown, hit, caught or kicked about to the cheers, groans and books of excited partisans.

*Defendant*: "Will complainant give the court his definition of this auspicious appellation?"

*Complainant*: "A classic is an outstanding piece of literature, painting or sculpture."

*Defendant*: "Very good, but not quite good enough. Now sir, please tell the court what are the special qualities inherent in any creation which earns for itself this (*studied pause*) sacred accolade."

Complainant falters but inspiration comes with the realisation that what the compère implied was that they had witnessed an unforgettable game. He turns to the court.

"A classic is a creation which continues to live and function long after its contemporaries have sunk into the abyss of forgetfulness."

*Defendant*: "How does your classic measure up to this state of prolonged life?"

*Complainant*: "By its ability to meet and fit into the changing circumstances wrought by time, and by its power to promote thought and action in each succeeding generation."

*Defendant*: "Will you give an illustration of this protracted life?"

*Complainant*: "When Pericles defined Democracy as 'Government of the people, for the people, by the people,' he created a classic which is as vital to-day as when he gave it birth two thousand four hundred years ago, but I cannot do better than cite the Bible which, after twenty centuries, remains the media for some of the world's greatest masterpieces in music, painting and the other arts."

*Defendant*: "M'Lud, that concludes my cross-examination. It only remains for me to state my case shortly and simply. It rests on 'The Olympics.' Need I say more?"

The Judge summing up: "The complainant, being a purist, would limit this distinction to a very restricted field of activity whilst the defendant, holding more liberal views, claims the right to apply it to anything approaching perfection. After due consideration the court finds in favour of the defendant."

*Huddersfield.*

T. ROGERS.



## Talking Book Library

### Autumn Leaves

This month I have several titles to which I can put no other story. Here are the ones I can help with and a selection of other titles.

"Laughing Gas," by P. G. Wodehouse, reader Eric Gillett, is the hilarious result of a visit to the dentist in the States by a peer and a child star who swap identities under the gas. A fine antidote to the news bulletins we get nowadays and much more enjoyable. *Cat. No. 405.*

"We Die Alone," by David Howarth, reader Robin Holmes, is almost the least credible of all the war exploit stories. A sabotage party trained in Scotland is betrayed to the Germans on landing in Norway. The epic story of one wounded survivor's journey to neutral Sweden and the loyal bravery of the Norwegians who helped him. Horrible, heart-rending, but mighty gripping for all that. *Cat. No. 422.*

"The Robe" (re-issue), by Lloyd C. Douglas, reader Stephen Jack, is a novel of the time of Christ and more than any book I have read seems to convey realistically the background to the events surrounding the crucifixion. The Roman guard commander who won Christ's robe by dice is the hero, and he is wise enough, or was it foolish enough, to travel to Palestine and become a convinced Christian. The distress of his patrician family and his own plight are depicted most graphically. *Cat. No. 711.*

"Moonraker," by Ian Fleming, reader Robert Gladwell, is a rocket thriller. The Moonraker is designed here in England to take the lead over the rest of the world in the sphere of rockets. Security agents, fending off sabotage and espionage at the construction site, enjoy a hectic time until the day of the launching when everything turns out far from well and there is plenty of excitement. *Cat. No. 793.*

Also released:

"People to be Found," by Joanna Cannan, reader Robin Holmes. *Cat. No. 2.*

"Family Album," by Antonia Ridge, reader Marjorie Anderson. *Cat. No. 93.*

"The Candle and the Light," by Hilda Vaughan, reader Andrew Timothy. *Cat. No. 184.*

"The Stepmother," by R. C. Hutchinson, reader Robert Gladwell. *Cat. No. 189.*

"Doctor at Large," by Richard Gordon, reader Franklin Engelmann. *Cat. No. 451.*

"The Dangerous Years," by Richard Church, reader Robin Holmes. *Cat. No. 469.*

"Those Fragile Years," by Rose Franken, reader Stephen Jack. *Cat. No. 510.*

"NELSON."

## How not to accept an invitation to a Red Cross Social

I am often told that I am snooty because I do not accept invitations to various events, so recently I accepted an invitation to attend a social arranged by the Red Cross. The home teacher who invited me is an airy-fairy creature who presumably speaks with hand gestures rather than give explicit directions.

I decided to come home early and through the pouring rain I plodded, got home, changed and stood waiting for a 'bus on the New Brighton route. What I did not know was that with Tranmere Rovers installing lighting for evening matches, there are now two 'bus stops, one for the New Brighton 'bus, one for match enthusiasts. I stood at the wrong one for thirty minutes.

Along came a man who said, "Wrong day for the match, love," so I said, "Oh dear, where is the 'bus stop for the No. 11?" He showed me. I waited another fifty minutes and then the 'bus decided to come along. Just delayed because the four bridges or something were under repair and there was a four-mile queue of vehicles held up by the docks.

Got off at the right stop and wondered how I would know which corner was a black and white building. I asked someone. She said, "Oh, it's at the other end of the street, dear." "Dear" trotted along on the right side and decided, "This seems a big building" and popped in. Heard hymns and thought, "What an odd social." Eventually I found a door that would open (three were locked). I crept in and waited. After a very long wait a lady came up and said, "Oh, you're in the wrong hall. This is the Church of Christ choral class." I arrived next door, five minutes before time for dispersal. Snooty, am I? My goodness, I think I earned that quick cuppa.

MAUREEN LEES.

## From All Quarters

At Kenilworth Horticultural Society Show, A. Jarvis was awarded a Diploma for his prowess at marrow cultivation, as well as three firsts, a second and a third prize for other entries.

Ned Larkin of the Archer family, who happened to be in the neighbourhood, was asked by the Society to sign the Diploma and this Ned did, inscribing it, "Congratulations from Ned Larkin." He also presented our St. Dunstaner with an autographed copy of a photograph of every member of the Archer family.

★ ★ ★

F. G. Tyrrell, of Banbury, won a prize for the heaviest catch of fish in a local competition.

★ ★ ★

H. Perkins, of Edgeware, won six first prizes, two seconds and one third, together with a Cup, at a recent local Flower and Vegetable Show.

★ ★ ★

At Sussex County Show for the Blind at Lewes, on September 3rd, P. Holmes, of Burgess Hill, took first prize for his dwarf beans.

★ ★ ★

Yet another prizewinner—H. F. Goodley, of Pulham Market. At the Norfolk Blind Gardeners' Show he took four first prizes for his tomatoes, grapes, roses and chrysanthemums.

★ ★ ★

A. Adams, of Doncaster, specialises in the ring culture of tomatoes and a letter from him on the subject was published in *Popular Gardening* on September 27th. Our St. Dunstaner has a greenhouse and a lean-to in which he has a grape vine; this has produced 30 bunches this year.

★ ★ ★

B. Barnes, of Cheltenham, has retired after thirty-eight years in the Inland Revenue Department in a senior capacity, and has received a personal letter of thanks from Mr. Heathcote Amory, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

★ ★ ★

A. C. Pointon, of Bexhill-on-Sea, one of our physiotherapists, is a radio "Ham,"—an amateur radio operator—and his "station," one of the most recently licensed, was the subject of "The Other Man's Station," in the *Short Wave Magazine* for September, 1958. Accompanying the article was a splendid picture of Mr. Pointon at his set.

## Newspapers on Tape

Aberdare, Glamorgan, has led the way in recording on tape recorders interesting items of news for its blind citizens. Now Maureen Lees writes:

"The idea has now spread to Birkenhead and with the co-operation of Major G. Wrayford-Willmer, the owner of the Wirral series of newspapers coming under the *Birkenhead News and Advertiser* and Mr. Oliver, chairman of the Tape Recorders' Association, a tape recording is now made available at the town's blind social meeting on Tuesday afternoons. A younger group has a dance and merry evening on Thursdays, and the first item is the tape recording of the week's special news."

## Golden Weddings

Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. P. Sheridan, of Wishaw, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on September 25th, and to Mr. and Mrs. W. Joyce, of Blackpool, who celebrated their fifty golden years on October 10th.

## Ruby Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. J. Triggs, of Ashford, Middlesex, celebrated their Ruby Wedding on September 28th, and Mr. and Mrs. P. Johns, of Torquay, on September 22nd. Many congratulations.

## Silver Wedding

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Marshall, of Horden, Co. Durham, who celebrated their Silver Wedding on September 20th.

## Family News

We send our sincere sympathy to Mrs. L. Thompson, of Gateshead, in the death of her mother on September 6th.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters.

On August 30th, Raymond John Edwards, of Hatch, near Sandy, Beds., to Pauline Angela Rutt, at the Methodist Church, Langford.

On September 13th, Mary Gwendoline Warner, of West Hendford, Yoevil, to Anthony John Coleman.

On October 18th, Philip Matthews, of Bilston, to Margaret Paget, of Sheffield.

On June 27th, Beryl Betty Povey, of Bitterne, Southampton, to Alfred Edward Baker.



## “In Memory”

### First Class Petty Officer Edward W. Schollar, *Royal Navy*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. W. Schollar, of Bedhampton, only three weeks before his 83rd birthday.

He was discharged from the Royal Navy in February, 1916, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until July, 1930, when he trained in netting and wool rugs. Ill health, however, forced him to give up both these crafts in time. Since the loss of his wife in 1945, he had lived with one or other of his daughters, but he was taken ill while on holiday at Brighton. He was admitted to hospital where he died on September 16th.

Our deep sympathy goes out to his family.

### Sergeant John Whittingslow, *1/6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment*

With deep regret we record the death of J. Whittingslow, of Kidderminster.

Enlisting in September, 1914, he was wounded in Belgium in May, 1915. He came to St. Dunstan's and trained in joinery and poultry-keeping but ill health forced him to give this up in 1933. He had since taken basket-making and he was working at this craft up to the time of his death.

He leaves a widow to whom our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private Charles Joseph Turley, *King's Liverpool Regiment*

We record with deep regret the death of C. J. Turley, of Barrow-in-Furness. He was 76.

He served with the regiment from 1915 until 1918, but did not come under St. Dunstan's care until 1950, when his age prevented him undertaking any training.

He was a widower and our deep sympathy is extended to his eight children.

### Peter Joseph O'Donoghue, *9th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of P. J. O'Donoghue, of Queensland, Australia. He died on August 17th after an illness lasting some weeks. He was in his 79th year.

He served with his battalion in Egypt and France, being wounded several times. He was accorded a soldier's funeral.

He composed many poems during his lifetime including the one which follows, which he recited at this year's Anzac Day gathering, and which could be his epitaph.

*They are not dead these men whom now we honour,  
They rest in places we may never know,  
Welcoming each year another revered comrade  
From out the thinning ranks below.*

*And as the Anzac Day dawns clear and cloudless  
The music swells with reverent awe,  
The air is filled with whisperings and unseen faces,  
They march beside their comrades as they did before.*

## Births

ANDROLIA.—On September 27th, to the wife of L. Androlia, of Great Barr, a son—Karl.

WEEKS.—On September 11th, to the wife of J. Weeks, of St. Leonards on Sea, a daughter—Marie Louise.

## Marriages

BUSH—HEFFER.—On August 30th, S. Bush, of Newhaven, to Miss Florence Heffer, of Harrow, Middlesex.

HUMPHRIES—LATHBURY.—On October 18th, E. Humphries, of Bloxwich, Staffs., to Miss Margaret Lathbury.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:

BULMAN.—To C. R. Bulman, of Beckenham, whose wife died in Devon on September 17th.

STRAFFORD.—To H. Strafford, M.M., of Moss, near Wrexham, who lost his wife on October 5th.

RILEY.—To W. B. Riley, of Midgley, Halifax, whose step-father died in September. Only a fortnight before, Mrs. Riley lost her father and our sympathy goes to them both in their double loss.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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No. 464—VOLUME XLII

NOVEMBER, 1958

PRICE 3d. MONTHLY.  
[FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN]

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

ALL over the world on Remembrance Day, November 9th, homage was paid to the dead of the two World Wars. St. Dunstaners were among those who paraded at the Cenotaph in London, and in the country, singly or in parties, they were present at the Services at their local War Memorials. At the Royal Albert Hall the previous day, St. Dunstaners again were among the vast audience taking part in the stirring Festival of Remembrance.

For the first time in nearly thirty years I was not present at the Cenotaph in London or at the Royal Albert Hall, because I had ceased to be President of the British Legion and I had been invited to go to Glasgow for the Festival of Remembrance there, and to make a speech. This was something new for me on this moving occasion for it has not been the custom to have speeches at the London ceremony, and as I considered what I should say my thoughts ranged over the past twenty years, and in particular the lot of the disabled during that time. Some of these thoughts might interest you.

Taking it all round, British ex-servicemen were absorbed into the community after the Second Great War smoothly, effectively and fairly. I think that this was partly due to the lessons we learned from the lack of organisation and carelessness of the period after the First World War, and to the British Legion's efforts during those difficult years; partly it was due to the high employment which has characterised the years since 1945.

So far as the war-disabled are concerned, they also have enjoyed much better employment in recent years and much better pensions, both actually and relatively. Indeed, I think it may be said that Britain has done reasonably well for those who fought her battles, but the British Legion must continue to be vigilant to make sure that the people remember and that Governments do their duty.

Why do men join societies, I wondered? Sometimes, perhaps, to get something, such as a material advantage or the recognition of a policy or an ideal. At other times to remember. To remember what? Perhaps that they are Scots and are far from home, as in the case of the Caledonian Society in Johannesburg or Auckland or Toronto. Or to remember their youth, as at an Old Boys' gathering. In our case, as old soldiers, sailors and airmen, to remember our comrades who died, or afterwards as the years march on, but also, I think, to remember the regiment, the ship or the squadron and the adventure.

Shakespeare made one of his characters say, "Old men forget . . . but he'll remember with advantages what feats he did that day." Advantages clearly means, "with exaggeration," and I suspect that one of the reasons for going to a British Legion branch, especially as you get older, is that you can tell your tales of daring, or whatever it may be, assured that there is no one present to check your story, or that even if there is, he won't let you down.

The British Legion north and south of the Border has done much to keep alive the comradeship of the war years and to help those who have fallen by the way. Not least, by reminding Governments and people of their obligations to the disabled, the widowed and the fatherless, and we who have served in war and are growing older can still give something to our country by our simple acts of unity and by our forbearance and kindness.

FRASER OF : ONSDALE.



### Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service

On Sunday, December 7th, at 11.15 a.m., a Service will be held at the Ovingdean Chapel to honour the memory of the Founder of St. Dunstan's, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart. The Rev. Stanley Oliver will conduct the Service, assisted by St. Dunstan's Padre, the Rev. W. J. Taylor, and our President, Sir Neville Pearson, will read the Lesson. Lady Pearson and Lord and Lady Fraser will be present.

★ ★ ★

On the morning of Tuesday, December 9th, the anniversary of Sir Arthur's death thirty-seven years ago, a party of St. Dunstaners will leave Headquarters for Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath will be placed upon Sir Arthur's grave.

Subscriptions of not more than one shilling towards the wreath should be sent to Mr. Lloyds, at 191 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

### Our Chairman takes his place in the Lords

Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, accompanied by his two sponsors, Lord Lovat, the Chieftain of the Fraser Clan, and Lord Astor of Hever, dressed in cloaks of scarlet and ermine, was introduced in the House of Lords on Wednesday, 22nd October, 1958.

Amongst those who attended the ceremony were a number of Peers, including Lord Teviot, one of Lord Fraser's oldest friends, and Lady Teviot, Major-General Sir Richard Howard-Vyse and Lady Howard-Vyse, Dame Regina Evans and Mr. J. R. Griffin and Mrs. Griffin representing the British Legion, Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., and Lady Pearson, and Mr. W. G. Askew and Mr. A. D. Lloyds, representing St. Dunstan's, Mr. T. Milligan, a blinded ex-serviceman and Mr. H. C. Baxter, a disabled ex-serviceman, representing the blind and the disabled, Sir John Fisher, President of the Morecambe and Lonsdale Conservative Association and Lady Fisher, Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, High Sheriff of Sussex and Mrs. G. B. Dacre (sister), Miss P. V. Fraser and Mr. Donald Fraser (cousins), Mr. C. A. F. McDonald (grandson), Mr. D. G. Hopewell and Miss E. Goole.

The party were entertained to tea in the House of Lords by Lord and Lady Fraser after the ceremony.

### Lord Fraser's Maiden Speech

During the month our Chairman made his maiden speech in the House of Lords. In fact he made two speeches during his first fortnight there. Characteristically, both related to ex-servicemen.

In the first he said that he felt sure disabled men generally and their societies would regard the improvements made last February as a very valuable instalment. There were, however, still anomalies and he thought that these did not justify national campaigning but that it would be more effective to bring them to the notice of Ministries by way of deputation.

In his second speech, Lord Fraser said that he did not think retirement pensions for officers or men could be altered as of right for that would mean re-writing contracts or implied contracts of service going back to the Boer War or earlier. Moreover, you could not confine yourself to the military cases but would have to consider police and all Crown servants—an impossible task. However, he thought there were cases of hardship and they ought to be dealt with by Ministries on their merits.

### The Sutton Club

The Sutton Club has been running for one year now. Although our President, Lady Onslow, and Mrs. Spurway and Miss Stevens, our two Vice-Presidents, were unable to be with us at last Saturday's meeting (November 1st), we got off to a flying start with the games. Bobby Daw, our Deputy Chairman, Bill Miller, George Emmerson, Pat Spring, Ernie Flynn and myself won our games and will go forward to the next round on November 29th, with the other heat winners. Of course, chaps, our Treasurer, Bob Giffard, and Miss Parsons (Florrie), our Secretary, will notify us of our opponents. I certainly hope you will all turn up on the 29th as we wish to bring the games to a close on that day. We want to be free for our last meeting of the year on the 20th December, as this will be a party night.

Will all those members who anticipate attending the Party notify me at my home address, 74 Waddon Court Road, West Croydon, Surrey, or telephone CRO. 0596 after 6 p.m.

Well, here's to our next meeting, chaps, so good luck and good health.

TED DUDLEY, *Chairman.*

## St. Dunstan's Bridge Club

As we go to press the Bridge Club is holding its annual Congress at Ovingdean. On Friday, November 14th, on the eve of the Congress, the Club held its Annual General Meeting. We give below extracts from the Captain's report:

"In the following report I hope that the picture I have tried to put before you will show that the entertainment provided through the medium of Contract Bridge is something that is fully appreciated and enjoyed by all members of St. Dunstan's Bridge Club in London.

"I am very grateful to Lord Fraser of Lonsdale for his article in the REVIEW, in which he draws attention to the many pleasant hours that can be spent with your friends. Lord Fraser proved this by spending one afternoon with us; he enjoyed himself and fully intends to come again.

"The programme for the past year was as follows:

"Firstly, Bridge matches against teams from business houses of all kinds.

"Secondly, the Bridge Drives, four in all and we had eight or nine tables on each occasion. The Drives are always looked forward to as they provide clean, wholesome competition and each drive seems to bring new faces up for prizes. I would like to point out for the benefit of new members that each man plays with a sighted partner.

"Thirdly, the Pairs Competition; this goes on throughout the year and is played when the time is convenient for the men to get together. This event has gone on a little longer than was expected, but that was mainly due to the 'bus strike and the fact that several of our members were away sick, but I am glad to say that it is on the way to being completed, and you must remember the A.G.M. is a month earlier this year than usual.

"The last point I have to bring to your notice is an innovation, namely, the choosing of the team to go to Ilkley Moor. This has always been done by the Appeals Department, but they have decided from now on that it will be handed over to the Bridge Committee for, in the opinion of that Department, the Bridge Committee are the right and proper body to make the choice. I must stress this point now—when choosing a team for that engagement, they must

be men who read the card by feeling and not by sight.

"I would like to say how grateful we are to Mrs. Willis and her helpers for the wonderful way they have looked after the needs of the "inner man." The quality and variety of food and refreshments provided are always excellent—thank you, Mrs. Willis. And to that stalwart, Mr. Willis, who has helped us so much in so many different ways during the past year—thanks a lot, Bob.

"Finally, may I thank all my Committee and the members of the Club as a whole, for their help and co-operation during my year of office as Captain."

G. P. BROWN,  
*Captain.*

## "Philbert Swankau"

Dubbed with this satirical nickname by a not too admiring critic, Gilbert Frankau, in his "Self Portrait" proceeds to justify it. He has the faculty of standing off and taking an objective look at Gilbert Frankau, and often he does not appear to like what he sees. He reveals himself over self-confident, opinionated, forceful, aggressive, in fact, as he says himself an "exhibitionist." He certainly does not spare himself in his frankness and yet I think he emerges a likeable character. Perhaps one envies his push and drive, acknowledging the lack of them oneself. There must have been a lot of ability or he would not have achieved the success which he won.

I wonder whether any other Braille reader like myself, found this a rather difficult book to read. I think it must be his style or my inexpertness. When a sentence starts, "Certain is that . . ." and continues with a parenthesis or two, I have to go back and read it again, sometimes three times before I get the meaning. Despite this I can recommend this lively book to any one who has not read it, to meet this stormy personality, and also glimpses of many famous people.

S. A. CHAMBERS.

## Masonic

J. Swales, of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, has been appointed by the Earl of Ronaldshay, Provincial Grand Master of the Province of York, North and East Ridings, to be his Provincial Grand Senior Warden for the current Masonic year.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Being a bridge player I have read with great interest the Chairman's article on this very absorbing subject.

Let me first of all mention the points in which I am in agreement. The method of sorting the cards is adopted by most of my blind colleagues playing, there is no doubt in my mind that it has for me, and I am sure that it can be for most St. Dunstaners, a wonderful hobby as well as a means of entertaining card-playing friends.

Next I am presuming the Chairman is referring to Contract Rubber Bridge only. Over the past 20 years I have discarded this type of play in favour of the more fascinating and competitive Duplicate Bridge where the luck of the cards is completely eliminated, but admitting at the same time a game in which tempers are liable to become a little frayed, a little jealousy arises and yet friends still remain friends. It is for this reason I still prefer to entertain my own friends in my own home for the social and jolly evening. If you take the game as a whole I disagree with the Chairman about it being a relaxation. I find it a fascinating most interesting hobby, but relaxation, no. If you are at all fatigued from whatever occupation, your standard of play is affected to a greater or lesser extent—this does not matter so much in the game of Rubber Bridge but is most disastrous in the competitive field.

I disagree with the remark that we are slower players than sighted players. Admittedly when first starting all card players take quite a long time to work out their plan of campaign. With my colleagues who play for St. Dunstan's in the London Business Houses Bridge League, we find no difficulty in keeping up with the tempo of our opponents and in fact sometimes I have known when our efforts have even outpaced them.

I shall be interested to hear what other St. Dunstaners have to say about the Chairman's letter and I trust it will stimulate others to air their views and at the same time to attract many other St. Dunstaners to take up this very pleasant and attractive game.

Beckenham.

CYRIL BULMAN.

DEAR EDITOR,

Reading the Chairman's excellent analytical article on Bridge reminded me of

the following amusing story:—

"A young subaltern, arriving in the Mess for the first time, was seized by three Bridge-hungry brother officers and invited to make a fourth. Protesting that he knew very little about the game he allowed himself to be cajoled into making up the table and proceeded to make a series of blunders: after a particularly bad one the irate colonel left the table exclaiming, 'Even Horatio couldn't defend your Bridge'."

Huddersfield.

T. ROGERS.

DEAR EDITOR,

A good many years ago I realised the possibilities of bridge and made a start. I soon found that the bidding was the all-important thing to make a good player and I got the pamphlet on the Vienna, or Stern system, and just learnt it off by heart. Later I went over to Culbertson and mastered that, but realising now that Acol is the system nearest to natural bidding, I went over to that and play it whenever possible. I have taught several of my sighted friends the Acol system and am now teaching one of our own men. He is in his sixties but does not find it too much.

Being slightly deaf I always like my friends to say "one" instead of "Ace," as "Ace" and "eight" are much alike, and in calling the dummy I like the top card mentioned first.

Yours sincerely,

Rottingdean.

BRUCE INGLEY.

DEAR EDITOR,

There is always a place for the beginner in our Bridge Club at London H.Q. In fact, we have one and sometimes two yearly events whereby the beginner, or shall we say the *not so good*, plays with a player of more experience in a league whereby each pair play each other pair once, and sometimes twice. This is a great scheme for encouraging and training the beginner.

As regards reading the cards, I don't think it matters what way you read, or with what finger or thumb, but for God's sake, do it quickly, so that you are not the last, and you can make your bid and play quicker, on the average, than most sighted people. Speed at this can only be obtained by constantly picking up the pack at odd moments, dealing and then assessing the points and values and then—what to bid. Then pick up the next hand and bid against the imaginary opponent. By doing this

for that odd half hour before tea, or before going to bed, your speed will come automatically.

Another way of improving your bridge is to read and thoroughly digest the bridge article in your favourite paper and then bid the hand with your own pet system and see if you arrive at the same answer, or even a better one.

I started playing regular bridge in 1938 and have never regretted it, and friendships have been made or improved through it.

Yours sincerely,

*Leigh-on-Sea.*

HARRY GOVER.

DEAR EDITOR,

When I wrote to you suggesting a theatre column in the REVIEW, I did not intend that it should be printed but only that you might mull it over in your mind.

However, as it has been printed, let me say that I do not feel strongly enough on the matter to make an issue of it. Nevertheless, I should like to answer some of the arguments against my suggestion, arguments which in my opinion do not hold water.

Firstly, the question of lack of space was raised. Surely this is not a valid argument. I should say that a couple of dozen lines would suffice. Secondly, the fact that a theatre column appears in *Progress* is of very little consequence. I have been a reader of this periodical for some years and I can honestly say that the only part of it that interests me at the moment is the theatre column, so if I could get a similar column in the REVIEW I should no longer need to take *Progress*.

Thirdly, the fact that many St. Dunstaners live in rural areas is a very thin argument indeed. Let me quote something that Lord Fraser said at the opening of the London Club—"London must always have a special place in the heart of St. Dunstan's, and therefore St. Dunstaners living in the London area must benefit by the facilities which cannot be made available to other more remote parts of the country." It would also benefit our men living in rural areas who make an occasional visit to London to be able to pick a play which is suitable for blind men.

Mr. Radford said it would be impossible to review plays for individual blind men. This is very true and I did not ask for that. I merely asked that plays suitable for blind men should be reviewed.

I am sure that Mr. Radford would not deny that many plays are not suitable for St. Dunstaners. Dialogue is the most essential part of a play for a blind man. Without it, it is useless. As for repetition, it is impossible to avoid it in a community like ours with such a variety of interests and periodicals.

As for your point, dear Editor, even the greatest theatre critic wouldn't dare to predict a long or short run.

Yours sincerely,

*Westcliff-on-Sea.*

MICKEY BURNS.

P.S. If any one can get me two tickets between now and February 1st for "My Fair Lady," I should be delighted to give you my comments! M.B.

DEAR EDITOR,

It would be helpful if you could print in the REVIEW a note as to how we should now address Lord Fraser.

Yours sincerely,

*Ovingdean.*

FRANK RHODES.

*Editor's Note:* A number of other St. Dunstaners have also made this request. Our Chairman's full title for formal occasions is: Lieut. Colonel the Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, C.H., C.B.E., but we understand it to be his wish that he should simply be addressed as Lord Fraser.

DEAR EDITOR,

I am still using the watch presented to me by Sir Arthur Pearson at the Chelsea Eye Hospital on December 18th, 1916, and it is still going strong.

Yours sincerely,

*Bolton.*

D. BEE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I still have the watch given to me by Mrs. Bates, sent to me before my arrival at St. Dunstan's about 1920. I dropped and broke it in the dressing rooms in 1927 and Mr. Swain offered to give me a new one for it: and in the end allowed me to keep the original which I got repaired, so have two. The original has been lent to two daughters and a son, when they were in the W.A.A.F., A.T.S. and R.A.F., with the result that it has been to Austria, Belgium, Canada (five times), Cyprus, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, and touched down at Tripoli!

Yours sincerely,

*Southwick.*

G. FALLOWFIELD.



## Talking Book Library

Seven excellent books of miscellaneous nature should appeal this month to all varieties of taste.

"Marry for Money," by Faith Baldwin, reader Elizabeth Kendall, tells the career of a girl model in New York who, although believing herself in love with a boozey journalist, accepts the affectionate millionaire who offers her marriage. She copes with her stiff in-laws admirably but her life is complicated by a sponging father, not averse to a little blackmail when opportunity offers. The story of the endurance and strengthening of the marriage makes a pleasant change from the present day crop of matrimonial wrecks. *Cat. No. 458.*

"The Golden Princess," by Alexander Baron, reader Robert Gladwell, is set in 16th century Mexico and recounts the improbable story of the Spaniard, Cortes. History is full of the accomplishment of the impossible but this particular story is colourful, romantically barbaric and full of interest and fascination. *Cat. No. 560.*

"Brothers in Law," by Henry Cecil, reader Eric Gillett, is a fine compound of both the serious and comic sides of a very young barrister's early process of feeling his way about the Courts. *Cat. No. 308.*

"Finch's Fortune," by Mazo de la Roche, reader Eric Gillett, is the third volume in the saga of the Whiteoaks family, following *Jalna* and *Whiteoaks*. *Cat. No. 452.*

"Triple Crown," by Colin Davy, reader John de Manio, is a most pleasing study of the Turf, far more typical of the activities of normal trainers, owners and jockeys than the usual crooked epics of the track. The fluctuating fortune of the owner-breeder, his trainer, and his family is a full measure of entertainment. *Cat. No. 416.*

"Queen in Waiting," by Norah Lofts, reader Andrew Timothy, is a biography of Eleanor of Aquitaine, eventual wife of Henry II after being the widowed Queen of France. A steadfast woman who bore Richard of the Lionheart, and to add to her bitter troubles, John the Jackal as well. Interesting and very readable. *Cat. No. 480.*

"Moby Dick," by Herman Melville, reader Donald Bissett, is the epic of Captain Ahab and the white whale. A mighty tome which like the curate's egg, I found good in parts. Enthralling and sleep-making by turn and, I'm afraid, least commendable of the seven books. *Cat. No. 388.* NELSON.

## Tarry in Wonderland

I recently had the privilege of being a guest for two weeks at St. Dunstan's Home at Ovingdean, Sussex. Most of you know this home has existed for a number of years and perhaps you have had the pleasing experience of staying there. For years I have always arranged to have my holidays with my family, but last year, owing to an accident whilst working at the hospital, I had to become a patient there and have an operation, which later necessitated a period of convalescence. This I spent at St. Dunstan's.

This was fortune following misfortune, for here I discovered the marvels I had been missing, so this year I took the opportunity of visiting St. Dunstan's again and stayed a fortnight. And what a wonderful fortnight! Arriving at mid-day on a Saturday in July, I was greeted by the Matron and conducted to a lift and taken to a spacious bedroom complete with wardrobe and wireless. Then down to the dining room for a particularly fine lunch, after which we went off by coach to the pier and theatre. Back to St. Dunstan's at 6 o'clock to a very appetising meal, then to a dominoes tournament, after which Horlicks and sandwiches, and so to a comfortable bed.

Next morning at 6.45 I was awakened by a cheery orderly with a hot cup of tea. Then to bathroom and breakfast.

During that fortnight there were coach trips to Lewes, Burgess Hill, Goodwood, Arundel and Brighton Races. We attended a concert at the Dome, visited the Hippodrome and Theatre Royal. There were many entertainments, including housey-housey and dominoes, with valuable prizes. We enjoyed listening to the reading of plays by the V.A.D.s and there were walks with escorts, car drives and lounging in deck chairs in the spacious sunken garden. I personally thoroughly enjoyed many hours with the talking books. Each day at intervals a coach service to and from Brighton was maintained.

It was a grand privilege to meet old St. Dunstaners and chat together, and last, but by no means least, I shall always remember the kindness received from all members of the Staff, for which I herewith thank them, and express the wish that I may "Tarry" longer another time.

S. C. TARRY, M.B.E.

## —And Another Tribute

I am writing, as has been suggested, to give my impressions of a visit to Ovingdean.

My stay was so very enjoyable that it would be difficult not to be too fulsome in appreciation. Since last I was there, nearly twenty years ago, I find so many improvements that it is not easy to enumerate them all, particularly as so many are psychological.

For instance, on arrival I was greeted by name although I had not advised the time of my train. I found the cuisine above reproach and the service better than most hotels today. The custom of reading to the newcomer the list of activities he can enjoy and the names of his fellow guests is an inspiration.

Trying very hard to be critical I would have wished that when the alterations were made you had put the wash bowls in the rooms; shaving to a very lusty chorus is rather difficult to we older men and this is not the fault of St. Dunstan's, merely an indication of how happy they make their guests. One very small practical suggestion—that an ordinary brush be placed in the bathroom to clean the bath after use.

Quite frankly I cannot find anything but praise for all arrangements, staff, domestic, and otherwise, escorts, dispensary, ministered to my every need.

*Parkstone, Poole.* LEONARD ARNOLD.

## Brighton Club Notes

Hello Brightonians! Come and support your Club by attending the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, the 11th December, at 7 p.m., and enter your names for the 1959 Sir Arthur Pearson Tournament Games.

FRANK A. RHODES.

## From Mr. Forsdick

I would like sincerely to thank all the St. Dunstaners who have so generously contributed towards the T.V. set presented to me on my retirement. I will think of you all every time I look in at the various programmes. My thirty-two years with St. Dunstan's have been among my happiest and I hope to keep in touch with many of you from time to time.

With very best wishes to you, your wives and families.

FRANK FORSDICK.

## Chess

There was just a round dozen who attended this year's Chess Week-end, when a handicap system was introduced for the first time. This seemed to work out very well, but alterations will be made in the handicap next year as a result of this year's games.

The first prize was shared by Bill Holder and myself, with Fred Taylor and Paul Walker sharing third and fourth places. Special prizes were awarded to J. B. Campbell, J. Culshaw and F. Kirkbright. These were braille books on Chess given by Mr. Bonham.

As is now usual, Mr. R. W. Bonham of Worcester College for the Blind, spent the week-end with us, adjudicating games when necessary, and assisting generally in running the tournament. He also devoted the Saturday evening to a talk and demonstration on how best to make use of the advantage of the handicap system.

We are very grateful to Miss Carlton for giving us so much of her time, especially as so many of the senior staff were on leave or were sick, and to Mrs. MacDonald, who made herself so useful in many ways.

Next year, in place of a talk or demonstration, we hope to arrange a match against the school boys who played a useful role again this year.

CHARLIE KELK.

DEAR CHESS PLAYERS,

Many thanks for the splendid gift you sent me; it was such a grand surprise and I appreciate your kindly thought very much.

I trust you enjoyed your Chess Week-end and I regret I was not well enough to be with you.

As I cannot write you individually, I am expressing my thanks through the REVIEW.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

*Pearson House.*

T. H. TUNFORD.

## Grandfathers

J. F. C. Mash, of St. Helier, Jersey—a daughter, Christine, has been born to the wife of his son, Maurice, now serving with the Army in Cyprus. Maurice's wife is with her husband. W. Storer, of Rugby, whose youngest son's wife has had a daughter. W. E. Bignell, of Kenley, Surrey.



## From All Quarters

A. C. Mitchell, of Guildford, by special invitation attended the Ceremony of Unveiling the Brookwood Memorial to Commonwealth Land Forces by Her Majesty the Queen on Saturday, October 25th. Her Majesty spoke to our St. Dunstaners for several minutes.

★ ★ ★  
Sergeant Alan Nichols has just completed unaccompanied a round-the-world tour by air. When he left London Airport on November 4th, he was interviewed on the B.B.C.'s "Radio Newsreel," and in the Television Newsreel.

★ ★ ★  
D. B. Elrod sent a photograph of his guide-dog, Dianna, to the Commander of the submarine *Nautilus*, which recently made the journey under the North Pole, and the photograph came back bearing the autographs of the Commander, Officers and all other ranks.

★ ★ ★  
Lord and Lady Fraser went to Brighton on October 31st to visit the various Homes. St. Dunstaners took the opportunity of the visit, the first since our Chairman became a peer, to wish him good luck.

★ ★ ★  
H. F. Goodley, of Pulham Market, who, as reported last month, secured four "firsts" at Norfolk Blind Gardeners' Show, has since heard that he also gained four seconds, one third and one highly commended.

★ ★ ★  
At Staines Lino Horticultural Society's Show in September, E. J. West, of Egham, gained a Certificate of Merit from the National Chrysanthemum Society, three first prizes for tomatoes and flowers, and a second, a third and a fourth.

★ ★ ★  
Yet another gardening success. F. C. Fullbrook, of Edgware, exhibiting at his first flower show—that of the Stanmore and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society—took third prize for a single Pink Pride chrysanthemum bloom. The local paper carried a good story and photograph.

## Advertisements

FOR SALE.—A hand-weaving loom, four shaft, cheaply. Apply, Mr. H. Hurst, The Meirs, Great Longstone, Bakewell.

R.A.O.B.—A braille Rule Book, to any Brother of this Order. Please send Lodge name and address to Mr. W. W. Holmes, 35 Bath Road, Stonehouse, Glos.

## "Time Shall Not Weary"

The date was November 11th, 1958, and I had attended a meeting at Eastbourne and the meeting had concluded.

As I was making my way from the hall a lady took my arm and said, "You do not know me, but I felt I must speak to you, I am one of the original St. D.'s staff in the Bungalow." This statement may not make much sense to my Second War colleagues, but to many a 14/18 chap it will ring a bell.

The lady, Miss Brown, had been a V.A.D. in the office of The Bungalow, with Capt. Roberts, and so a long chat was due. To me, a Second War bloke, with many friends from the First War, it was a pleasure.

So now I pass on to you of The Bungalow your old friend's regards. The names came tumbling from her lips, Ashton, Scotty, Webster, Rhodes, Winter, Craigie, the Aussie, many more, but space forbids my mentioning them all.

You will all be glad to know Miss Brown is very fit, and full of remembrances of you all. How I smiled when I learnt one friend of mine was to her a "nice dark young boy." When I told him he said he was now a "bald headed old bloke." Yes, Miss Brown sends her wishes and told me she hopes to pay a visit to Ovingdean in the early part of 1959, and I am sure she will once again meet some of you and she will prove that time does not weary, and as she told me, "Once a St. Dunstaner, always a St. Dunstaner"; words used by our greatest and well loved founder and friend, Sir Arthur Pearson.

JOHN A. MUDGE.

## Tales Of Ind Cashing a Cheque

I was walking along a tree lined road of the little town of Muddipore when I met Paget, who had recently arrived in India and was on the staff of our office. "Where are you going?" I asked. "I'm going to the Bank to cash a cheque." We were near the bank so I went along with him. We entered the bank, a large roomy building. On the left, as we entered, was a wooden partitioned office, the Agent's office—it was a Scotch bank. On the left ran a long counter surmounted by a brass grille and behind each window sat an Indian clerk with a large open ledger before him. Beside each window, attached to the grille was a series of letters of the alphabet indicating where the customer would find

his account. "Come along," I said to Paget, "You're up here among the 'Ps'." Paget handed his cheque in to the clerk saying, "I should like the money in notes." The clerk took the cheque, examined it, entered it in a ledger and handed Paget a brass token with a number stamped on it. "What is this for?" asked Paget, looking bewildered. "You will hand that to the Cashier when he calls the number on the token," I said. We then sat down on a bench and I explained to Paget some of the mysteries of cashing a cheque in a country branch of a bank in India. I pointed to an Indian gentleman sitting at a desk at the top of the room. "That," said I, "is the sub-Agent. When your cheque has been through the hands of several more clerks it will eventually arrive on the sub-Agent's desk, and after he has initialled it it will be taken to the Agent for his signature." "Why is all this necessary?" asked Paget. "A matter of check and counter check, and I am not punning," I said. "Who is that scantily clad Indian seated cross-legged on that bed-like affair surrounded by chests and money?" "That is the cashier, he handles all the money and is personally responsible for it. He is not a servant of the bank, and in fact has to give the bank substantial security before he gets the job. In return he receives a commission on all the business that passes through his hands. I said it was a Scotch bank."

As I was speaking the cashier nodded to me that Paget's cheque had arrived and we went over to where he was seated. My friend Moti Ram, the cashier, pointed to the cheque and said, "Backside sign kia saheb?" "What does he say," asked Paget. "He wanted to know if you had endorsed it," I replied.

"Why did he say 'backside'?" asked Paget. I pointed out that Indians of the class of the cashier knew very little English and that many old English words not now in use in modern English are still current among them. For example, many Indians still speak of the cinema as the Bioscope.

"Well, we live and learn," said Paget. "Let's go along to the Club for a drink." I agreed.

DUNCAN McALPIN.

(The last two articles arrived too late for inclusion in the braille "Review," but will appear next month.—ED.)

## Births

JUBB.—On November 14th, to the wife of B. T. Jubb, of Orpington, a daughter—Kathryn.

SMITH.—On October 27th, to the wife of D. W. Smith, of Worcester, a son.

## Marriage

WINDRIDGE—SMITH.—On October 23rd, O. Windridge, of Wigston Magna, to Mrs. E. L. Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Windridge are now living at South Wigston.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

AUSTWICK.—To G. M. Austwick, M.M., of Coventry, whose wife has died suddenly.

COULSON.—To A. Coulson, of Seaton, near Hull, whose wife has died suddenly following a recent illness.

DUNCAN.—To T. Duncan, of Peacehaven, whose mother has died in Scotland at the age of 88.

MILLER.—To E. Miller, of Leamington, in the loss of his mother.

STANWAY.—To Mrs. Margaret Stanway, of Morecambe, who lost her father on October 22nd.

## Ruby Weddings

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Matthews, of St. Helens, and to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Rodgers, of Barrow-in-Furness, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on October 23rd. They had a double wedding at Marylebone Parish Church in 1918. A record was played for both couples on the B.B.C. programme, "Housewives' Choice" on the actual day of their anniversary.

## Family News

C. Durkin's son, Eng. Officer F. T. Durkin, was the engineer on the B.O.A.C. Comet that flew across the Atlantic to the U.S.A. on October 4th. He has served with the Comets for many years.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On October 2nd, Liam McGloin, Sligo, to Miss B. H. Sheridan.

On October 4th, Rosalie Mortimer, Hull, to Roy Douglas Watts.

On October 18th, Philip Matthews, Bilston, to Miss Margaret Paget, of Sheffield.

On September 27th, Margaret Rose Read, Worlingworth, Suffolk, to Colin J. Heffer.

On August 30th, Maureen Varley, Sheldon, to Frank Smith.



## “In Memory”

### Private William James Dimond, *2nd Sussex Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of W. J. Dimond, of East Grinstead, at the age of sixty-one.

He came to St. Dunstan's in February, 1917, and trained as a mat-maker, and combined with this work wool rugs and string bags. For some time, however, he has been in very poor health; on October 14th his condition became much more serious and he died the following day.

He leaves a widow and grown up family, as well as a little girl of thirteen, to whom our deep sympathy is sent. Our thoughts go out particularly to Mrs. Dimond whose brother also died the following day. He had been a paralysed invalid for many years.

### Gunner William John Harris, *Royal Field Artillery*

We record with deep regret the death of W. J. Harris, of Fareham. He was sixty-five.

When he came to us in February, 1920, he trained as a boot and mat-maker. He worked at these crafts for some ten years but gave up the former in the 1930's. Ill-health forced him to give up mat-making in 1949, since when he had only worked a little on string bags.

He was admitted to hospital a few weeks before his death, which occurred on October 12th. Members of Toc H and a representative of the Royal Artillery were present at the funeral, which was also attended by his St. Dunstan friend, Mr. Prior, of Portchester, and Mrs. Prior. Mrs. Albert Ryan (formerly Miss Craddock, V.A.D.) was also present.

To his widow and family our deep sympathy is sent.

### Corporal Henry Olpin, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death, on October 25th, of H. Olpin, of Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol. He was sixty-four.

He served in the First World War but did not come to St. Dunstan's until December, 1950, when his age and indifferent health ruled out any training.

To his widow and grown up family our deep sympathy is sent.

### Private Archie Alfred Papps, *Labour Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. A. Papps, of Stroud, Glos., at the age of sixty-one.

Although he served in the 1914-1918 war, it was not until as recently as April of this year that he came to us, when his ill-health made training impossible. He was admitted to hospital in June, but his condition gradually deteriorated and he died there on November 10th.

He leaves a widow, four daughters and a son, to whom our deep sympathy is extended.

### William Louis Pottier Smith, *Civil Defence Force*

With deep regret we record the death of W. L. P. Smith, of Eastbourne, who was our oldest St. Dunstaner. He was ninety.

He enlisted in Civil Defence as a volunteer in 1941 and was discharged the same year after being injured by incendiary bombs. He came to us in February, 1953, but his age prevented him taking any training. He lost his wife in 1954 and was cared for by his daughter-in-law. He had been coming to Pearson House for several periods this year and it was there that he died on November 12th.

We send our deep sympathy to his relatives.

### Private Albert Williams, *1st South Wales Borderers*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of A. Williams, of Newport, Monmouthshire, at the age of eighty-one.

Enlisting in August, 1914, he was wounded at La Bassée, and he came to St. Dunstan's in August, 1915. He was first a poultry farmer but gave this up in 1922 owing to ill-health. He did a little mat-making for a short time and began poultry-keeping on a small scale again in 1929.

He lost his wife in 1952 and our deep sympathy goes out to his seven children.

# ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW

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For Men and Women Blinded on War Service

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PRICE 3d. MONTHLY.  
(FREE TO ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN)

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

**A**LEC CRAIGIE, 75 years-old Australian St. Dunstaner, now resident near Brighton, has just passed his preliminary Braille Test and has received a Sir Arthur Pearson Prize of £2 0s. 0d.

Like me, I expect Alec learnt Braille during the First War and then forgot it. I call attention to this because 75 is a great age and this is a wonderful feat. Let the mere youngsters of 40, 50 and 60 years of age take note.

### Premium Bonds

I have just bought some Premium Bonds, and before doing so discussed various aspects of this investment with different people. You buy a Bond for a pound and you do not lose this money, but can always get it back by selling the Bond for a pound. You do not get any interest but instead your pound goes into a draw every month after the first six months and you may win a prize varying from a few pounds to a thousand pounds.

I thought of the merits of the Premium Bond compared with the Football Pools. In the Football Pool, of course, you do not get your money back; it has gone for ever. On the other hand, of course, you may win a prize which is quite out of proportion in magnitude. The chances of getting a prize in a Football Pool are extremely remote.

It seemed to me that if you were going to spend say, 3s. a week on Football Pools, you would do much better to accumulate the 3s. for seven weeks and then buy a Premium Bond for 20s. and put the odd 1s. back in your pocket, or even give it to your wife.

### Christmas

On Christmas night I shall be in London, and will be doing the Annual Broadcast for the Wireless for the Blind Fund at 8.55 p.m. With others, I was concerned with the formation of this Fund some thirty years ago and it has done a wonderful job, providing practically every blind person in this country with a wireless set. To be exact, we have never quite caught up with our task, though we got very near it one year. There are always a few thousand new blind persons each year, mostly in the older age groups, and there are also quite a number of sets which are so ancient that they require replacement.

I expect I shall eat my Christmas dinner in the middle of the day, because if I ate it in the evening, it would be spoiled by anxiety about this broadcast.

I wish I could send all St. Dunstaners a message over the air, and I will certainly be doing so in spirit if not in words. Lady Fraser and I will be thinking of you and your families and we wish you all a happy Christmas.

FRASER OF LONSDALE



## Annual Memorial Service to Sir Arthur Pearson

The Ovingdean Chapel was filled on Sunday, December 7th, for the Memorial Service to St. Dunstan's Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt. The Service was conducted by the Rev. Stanley Oliver, assisted by the Rev. W. Taylor. Sir Neville Pearson read the Lesson. The Address was given by the Rev. S. Oliver (himself a St. Dunstaner). Lord and Lady Fraser were also present.

## At Sir Arthur's Grave

On Tuesday, December 9th, the thirty-seventh anniversary of the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, a party of St. Dunstaners—Messrs. L. Cadman, of London, N.W.3, S. K. Jerome, of Didcot, and T. Milligan, of London, W.8, escorted by Mr. R. May—accompanied Lady Fraser and Mr. A. D. Lloyds to Hampstead Cemetery, where a wreath was placed on Sir Arthur's grave on behalf of St. Dunstaners in every part of the world.

## Greetings from Overseas

Don Tacon, late of the Industrial Staff, who emigrated to Canada eighteen months ago, asks us to convey to his many St. Dunstaner friends his good wishes for a very happy Christmas and success in the New Year. He apologises for not being able to write to each one individually. He is working twelve hours a day at the moment.

★ ★ ★

Hand-written in a Christmas card come greetings from Australia with these words:  
Ex No. 439 Sergeant . . Battn. 2nd, A.I.F.

No. 7000 L/Cpl. F. J. Hughes, Battn.  
4th, A.I.F.

But the Sergeant didn't fill in his name.  
We send back our own good wishes to  
L/Cpl. Hughes and our anonymous friend.

## Ruby Weddings

Many congratulations to the following who celebrate their Ruby Weddings this month: Mr. and Mrs. J. Batty, of Killamarsh, Sheffield, December 5th; Mr. and Mrs. H. Crabtree, of Wood Green, December 7th; Mr. and Mrs. J. Kay, of Heywood, December 11th; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Osmond, of Walthamstow, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Bradford, of Upper Heeley, Sheffield, both on December 26th.

## From All Quarters

P. Saywell, who has been a driller for more than fourteen years at the Lockheed organisation, met Her Majesty the Queen Mother when she visited Warwick recently.

★ ★ ★

The Scottish Braille Press have begun work on the production of a braille edition of "The Memoirs of Field Marshal Montgomery."

★ ★ ★

J. T. Scrymgeour, O.B.E., of Warwick, Queensland, has a book "Reminiscences of St. Dunstan's," published by Arthur H. Stockwell, Ltd., price 7s. 6d. After training at St. Dunstan's, Mr. Scrymgeour returned to Australia to become one of the foremost cattle breeders in the country. He retired only a year or so ago.

★ ★ ★

H. Bridgman, of Allenton, Derby, is Vice-President of the Allenton Branch of the Service Committee of the British Legion and has just been elected to the Committee for the fourth year in succession.

★ ★ ★

George Merriman, of New Plymouth, New Zealand, writes: "I caught twenty-four rainbow trout during my holiday and lost the inevitable big one that got away, after pulling my anchored dinghy round in a circle two or three times. (True!! Honest Injun!!)."

## The Dark Mirror

*This is our heritage, this land so fair  
This is our birthright for all to share,  
This land so rich in beauty free,  
Its pages filled with history.  
From Sussex Downs to Cotswolds green,  
From Devon cliffs to Lakes serene.*

*I see the dawn break in the sky,  
I watch the larks all way on high,  
From grasses wet with heavy dew  
Where leverets play in fields I knew.*

*Your beauty lives where violets sleep  
And willow trees o'er waters deep.  
And still I see in memory clear  
And as days pass I have no fear,  
For this is our land whose beauty free  
In days to come will comfort me.*

W. W. HOLMES.

## London Club Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the London Club will be held at Headquarters, 191 Marylebone Road, on *Thursday, January 8th, 1959*, at 7.30 p.m.

★ ★ ★

To St. Dunstaners and their families, wherever they may be, the old time wish—A Merry Christmas and Good Luck and Good Fortune for 1959.

S. WEBSTER,  
*Chairman.*

*Bridge.*—The Annual General Meeting of the Bridge Club was held on Friday, November 14th, at Ovingdean. About thirty members attended the meeting. Mr. A. E. Field was in the Chair.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

*Captain/Secretary:* G. P. Brown. *Treasurer:* S. Webster. *Committee:* N. Downs, J. Fleming, F. Jackson.

The Bridge Club celebrates its 21st birthday next year, and in honour of the occasion we are having a special week-end at Brighton on May 30th-31st next. There will be a private dinner on the Saturday evening and a special Bridge Drive on the Sunday afternoon.

Will members please write to me at once stating whether they will be able to be present, and secondly, whether they will be coming with an escort.

G. P. BROWN.

## Walking

**St. Dunstan's Five Mile Handicap and Match *v.* Metropolitan Police and Bowring A.C., Regent's Park, Saturday, 15th November, 1958**

### Billy Miller beaten into third place in the Scratch Race

The opening walk of the season, the five mile handicap, which consisted of three Inner Circles and one Outer, was held at Regent's Park on 15th November.

A match between our sporting friends of the Metropolitan Police and Bowring A.C. also took place. Twenty-one competitors got off to a good start from the commanding voice of Mr. M. A. Dunaway, of the Stock Exchange A.C. At the end of the first Inner Circle, C. Shields (Met.) and G. Comber (Bow.) had taken the lead and were walking shoulder to shoulder, followed by W. Wood (Met.) and J. Culver

(Bow.) with G. Hewitt fifth and the first St. Dunstaner. The positions remained the same for the next two Innings, with Billy Miller and Les. Dennis having a great struggle in the ninth and tenth positions, while that grand old chap, Archie Brown, was close on their heels and our newcomer to the sport, J. Simpson, putting up a gallant performance. Tommy Gaygan and Stan Tutton were at the rear, but they will come again with a bit more training.

On reaching the half distance, Shields had taken the lead and was walking well, with G. Comber second, five yards separating them. Wood was third but some three minutes behind the leader, our own G. Hewitt still walking well and holding fifth position. The leading competitors held their positions until the finish, while those in the rear were fighting it out for each point that counted in the match.

Congratulations to J. Simpson on being placed third in the handicap at the second time of walking in a match. Thanks to all who made this walk a success and a special vote of thanks to Mrs. Willis and her ladies.

The next race is a seven miles handicap at Regent's Park on 24th January, start at 2.30 sharp. Make this a bumper entry which Bob Willis will be pleased to receive.

C.H.

## RESULT:

<i>Order of Finish</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>All.</i>	<i>H'cp Time</i>	<i>Pos. in H'cp</i>
1. C. Shields	M.P.	41-43	—	—	
2. J. Comber	Bow.	41-50	—	—	
3. W. Woods	M.P.	44-39	—	—	
4. J. Culver	Bow.	44-40	—	—	
5. G. Hewitt	St. Ds.	45-28	1-15	44-13	1
6. F. Long	M.P.	45-29	—	—	
7. L. Dennis	St. Ds.	46-36	1-15	45-21	2
8. L. Ward	M.P.	46-55	—	—	
9. J. James	M.P.	47-16	—	—	
10. G. Bourne	M.P.	47-18	—	—	
11. D. Hallett	M.P.	47-21	—	—	
12. W. Miller	St. Ds.	47-37	Scr.	47-37	5
13. A. Brown	St. Ds.	48-00	1-45	46-15	4
14. J. Gunn	Bow.	48-55	—	—	
15. G. Howse	Bow.	50-05	—	—	
16. J. Simpson	St. Ds.	52-19	6-15	46-04	3
17. G. Watkins	Bow.	52-21	—	—	
18. G. England	M.P.	53-12	—	—	
19. A. Stone	Bow.	53-54	—	—	
20. T. Gaygan	St. Ds.	54-37	6-40	47-57	7
21. S. Tutton	St. Ds.	54-54	7-10	47-44	6

## MATCH RESULT:—

1st, Met. Police, 37 points; 2nd, Bowring A.C., 71 points; 3rd, St. Dunstan's, 73 points.

MATCH RESULT:—St. Dunstan's *v.* Bowring A.C. Bowring A.C., 39 points; St. Dunstan's, 39 points. Bowring A.C. won on position.



## Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I am one of the men who took Lord Fraser's advice—to start "sorting out the dots" again.

I was blinded in 1918 and eventually went to St. Dunstan's, where I passed my Braille Test in the following year. Having regained a little sight, I am afraid, like lots of other men, I did not continue with it.

I have just had a five weeks' "refresher" course in Braille and am very pleased to say that I got on with it surprisingly well. This I owe mainly to my teacher, Joe Walch, who I consider is one of the best of teachers to learn from. In fact I cannot say enough—not only for the teaching, but for the understanding and companionship given so freely and good-heartedly during my tuition.

I should like to thank these teachers and also the rest of the staff for making my stay so enjoyable, and recommend any man who finds himself in the same position as myself to take advantage of this course.

Yours sincerely,

*Carbis Bay.*

F. GRIFFEE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I have been very interested in the stereophonic experimental broadcasts given by the B.B.C. on alternate Saturday mornings. A radio and television set are both needed to listen to these and I would urge any St. Dunstaner who has not done so to hear them.

This is a big step forward in sound broadcasting; one gets the impression of an orchestra being on a stage. In a play the characters seem to move about quite freely and sound effects are very natural and realistic. In a "Sherlock Holmes" play, a pony and trap seemed to approach from far away, trot across the stage and fade away in the distance. I think that this will be of immense advantage to us, even more than sighted people. It will certainly make our listening much more interesting and enjoyable.

I should like to know what other St. Dunstaners think about this. The B.B.C. invite listeners who are interested to write giving their impressions and asking for further information on this subject. This I have done.

Yours sincerely,

*Warehorne,  
Kent.*

ARTHUR G. LOVERIDGE.

DEAR EDITOR,

I recently attended a reunion of the remainder of my family at Great Yarmouth. I have two brothers and two sisters, ages ranging from 89-75. The total number of our years is 406. I am not boasting but wonder if any of the boys can beat this.

Yours sincerely,

*Ovingdean.*

ARTHUR OVERILL.

DEAR EDITOR,

I was much interested in George Fallowfield's letter regarding his much travelled watch. Perhaps he will be interested in my story.

After being blinded with mustard gas I was sent down to a Base Hospital, and in due course I was given my few personal belongings and going through them, I found an unused issue green envelope. Thinking I should not be going up the line again I decided to keep it as a souvenir.

During the last war I had two sons serving and I thought of the idea of enclosing the envelope in a letter I was sending to my son in Italy and asking him to post his next letter to me in that envelope. I had it initialled by a friend of mine on the inside to make sure that the same envelope came back, and it did, and as far as I know I have still got it in my possession. You see it was issued to me in the First War and used by my son in the Second War.

Yours sincerely,

*South Molton.*

H. COBLEY (Uncle Tom).

(This letter arrived too late for inclusion in the Braille Edition.—Editor).

★ ★ ★

Mr. J. W. Mahony, Physiotherapist at Ovingdean, has retired after twenty-five years' service on the Staff of St. Dunstan's. He was at Brighton before the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, then at Church Stretton, and he returned to Ovingdean with us when the war ended.

His St. Dunstan friends, as well as members of the Staff, will join with us in sending our very good wishes to him on his retirement.

## Great-Grandfather

J. Kelleher, of Cork.

## Grandfathers

F. Griffie, of Carbis Bay, Cornwall; and new grandchildren for H. Hurst, of Great Longstone, near Bakewell; D. Murphy, of Glasgow; E. Watts, of Birkenhead; C. J. R. Fawcett, of Bournemouth; F. Stew, of Shuthonger, near Tewkesbury.

## Mustard Gas Still Blinds

Mustard gas used by the Germans in the 1914-18 war is still causing blindness in British soldiers exposed to it, Lord Fraser told the House of Lords on December 2nd. He was making an earnest plea to the Government not to limit to ten years the period within which claims for damage by atomic radiation may be made under the Nuclear Installations (Licensing and Insurance Bill). Lord Fraser said: "It may surprise your Lordships to know that this year no fewer than twenty men entered St. Dunstan's now wholly blind as the delayed result of mustard gas affecting their eyes long ago . . . it may be said that there is no analogy between this and what we are talking about, but I think it is up to the Government to prove that that is so. Who can tell what will be the effect of these radiations, any more than one could have told what would be the effect of mustard gas?"

The amendment to seek the removal of the ten-year limit was, after the discussion, withdrawn.

## Christmas Competition

Will you join the Editor at Christmas dinner? Don't accept right away, but study the menu first.

*Hors d'oeuvre*  
DRINK SAME DOSES  
*Soup*  
YOUR POSSET  
*Fish*  
ONE SOLID LAMB  
*Poultry*  
TRY OUR STEAK  
*Vegetables*  
TASTE SOAP ROOT  
CALL OUR WIFE  
*Sweets*  
NILE POEM  
MICE RACE  
*Savoury*  
HEBREW TRIALS

Food for thought, isn't it? If you can find the real names of the dishes, send the menu to the Editor not later than Thursday, January 15th. There will be three prizes of two guineas each for the first three correct solutions opened after the closing date. Address your envelopes to the Editor, St. Dunstan's Review, 1 South Audley Street, London, W.1, marking them, "Menu."

## St. Dunstan's Annual Bridge Congress

St. Dunstan's Bridge Club held its annual Congress at Ovingdean on the week-end November 15th-16th, forty-six players taking part. This shows an increase on previous years and I sincerely hope that the number will be even greater next year. There is plenty of room in the Winter Garden for many more and we will be delighted to see you.

The programme for the two days is made up as follows: The two principal events are played on Saturday—the Pairs Competition for the Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Cup, and the Teams of Four Competition for a similar Cup. On the Sunday there are two Bridge Drives to complete the week-end.

The Congress this year seems to have gone remarkably well according to the members themselves, the comment on all sides being "the best ever." I have come to the conclusion after making a few inquiries, that the great success of the Congress was due to the fact that the standard of play was much improved, there was greater co-operation between the men and the markers, and the movement from table to table was much quieter. And, of course, we had the skill and patience of our two stalwarts, Mr. A. E. Field and Mr. C. Stokes, who controlled the whole of the proceedings.

I would like once again to thank the Matron, Commandant and the whole Staff at Ovingdean for a most glorious week-end.

### RESULTS:

*Sir Arthur Pearson Cup:*

*Pairs Competition:* H. GOVER.  
P. NUYENS.

*Sir Arthur Pearson Cup:*

*Teams of Four:* H. GOVER.  
P. NUYENS.  
M. DELANEY.  
R. SLAUGHTER.

G.P.B.

★ ★ ★

E. Miller, of Leamington, took second prize with his tomatoes at the Warwick Show.



## Talking Book Library

### For Your Christmas Perusing

Seven more attempts this month to tickle varying reading palates.

"The Pursuit of Love," by Nancy Mitford, reader Marjorie Anderson, is a fellow volume of "Love in a Cool Climate." The early days of two sisters in an atmosphere of stately homes, and their blossoming into Society and circles of the intelligentsia. A plentiful admixture of comedy, tragedy and anecdote. Perhaps it should be labelled "Ladies Only." *Cat. No. 297.*

"Victorian Love Story," by Nerina Shute, reader Laidman Browne, is the romantic life of an eccentric painter-poet, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The careers of his lovely model and himself are set in jewelled sidelights on Millais, Ruskin and William Morris. A most un-Victorian and decidedly entertaining frolic. *Cat. No. 424.*

"Beyond the Black Stump," by Nevil Shute, reader Stephen Jack, tells of neighbouring sheep stations in the parched vastness of Australia. One inhabited by a heterogeneous mixture of an Irishman's family—hard-drinking, hard-working characters—one by a young, solitary Englishman, working desperately to establish his sheep run against perpetual drought. Enter oil-prospecting team led by an American geologist who snatches young solitary's Irish lady love. So far so good, but if you wish to hear a good story unfold I recommend that you read on. *Cat. No. 457.*

"Anna Karenina," by Leo Tolstoy, reader Alvar Lidell, is a mighty Russian classic. The tragedy of Anna's incandescent love for a soldier Count, conflicting with the love for her small son by her government official husband, has two lesser romances of sisters Dolly and Kitty running parallel. This is a long book and if you are addicted to happy endings it is not for you. *Cat. No. 368.*

"The Golden Journey," by Agnes Sligh Turnbull, reader Laidman Browne, is refreshingly different. A young American lawyer with an eloquent tongue fights to combat the crooked manipulation of city politics. There is much personal grief and struggle, apart from the fact that he finds himself opposed to his father-in-law, the city "big boss." *Cat. No. 379.*

"The Traitors' Gate," by Edgar Wallace, reader Laidman Browne, is a fast moving thriller. Somehow the Tiger's foolproof

plan to filch the Crown Jewels is fortuitously thwarted. There is excitement, action, love interest and all in this little offering. *Cat. No. 642.*

"The Vermilion Gate," by Lin Yutang, reader Stephen Jack, is the story of a Chinese family. A much interwoven kaleidoscope of tyranny, courage, romance, starvation, ignorance, intellect, war, luxury and stark tragedy. There are two or three main characters who make the story less abstract than my short summary can. *Cat. No. 100.* "NELSON."

## All Present and — ?

At the beginning of 1942, I was a member of a contingent of Royal Air Force trainee pilots attached to the South African Air Force under the Empire Air Training Scheme. I was stationed on the veldt seven miles outside Pretoria at what was then called Lyttlestone Camp.

It was the usual practice for the whole station to muster on the main parade ground for roll call at 6 o'clock every morning, and as breakfast was not until eight, we found this rather irksome. As Lyttlestone Camp was some 6,000 feet above sea level, the early mornings were very chilly and we were allowed to wear our greatcoats over our khaki drill tunics and shorts. The "dodge," of course, was to wear your greatcoat over your sleeping attire, thereby enabling you to have those last few minutes.

On the morning in question, we were standing to attention on the parade ground waiting for the roll to be called when the order came, "Remove greatcoats." There was a gasp of dismay. Instead of smartly pressed tunics and shorts, a parade ground full of multi-coloured pyjama-clad men with trousers rolled above the knees stood shivering in front of the horrified commanding officer. Unfortunately the R.A.F. contingent newly out from clothes-rationed Britain came off worst of all, for some, having no pyjamas (they were not then an issue), stood coyly to attention in short shirts trying to look as military as the circumstances permitted.

Colindale.

R. WOOD.

★ ★ ★

Would any St. Dunstaner who would be willing to send on his braille magazine, *Hora Jocunda*, to Mr. Ben Sutton, who is deaf and blind, write to the Editor.

## German Tribute

In the current number of *Der Kriegsblinde* (*The War-Blind*)—the equivalent of our ST. DUNSTAN'S REVIEW—after referring to our Chairman's move to the House of Lords, an article recalls that it was Lord Fraser who, during the winter of 1945-46, helped from London to overcome the great political difficulties which stood in the way of re-constituting a German war-blind society. At that time it was Herr Voigt, of Hamburg, who was able to avail himself of his friendship and contacts with Lord Fraser. He was prepared to help immediately and thus the Military Government approved the creation of the Society at that time called "St. Georg," which soon counted 4,000 members in the British occupation zone and in Hesse.

The friendship between our Chairman and Herr Voigt survived the war, although they were cut off from communication for many years. St. Dunstan's rowing men will remember that at a dinner some twenty years ago, Herr Voigt, who happened to be in London, was their guest.

## Under "Virgo"

Do you, for the fun of it, sometimes enquire what your horoscope is for the day? And do you sometimes think how far it is from the truth? If you are like me, you do. But let me relate a recent occasion when I was taking a holiday at Ovingdean when, unknown to me at the time, my lucky star, "Virgo," really did foretell an actual fact.

On Tuesday, November 25th, 1958, I was going down to the kiosk to replenish my supply of cigarettes when I followed, step by step, another St. Dunstan who was on a similar errand. I spoke to him and he asked who I was. Having told him, I also asked who he was. Immediately the name rang a bell in my memory. I allowed him to get his smokes and I got my own, but when I turned round I said, "Excuse me, you said your name is David Hatter?" He replied, "Yes." I said, "Do you happen to remember anything about 106 and 264 Batteries, Garrison Artillery?" He stood erect and said, "Yes, I should think I do." I took him by the hand and said, "Meet Jim Shaw, who served with you in France."

Readers of this little story will appreciate

that the handshake became a lasting grip, and it was the prelude to several long chats as our minds were cast back to the days from 1915 to 1918, which covered the period when we had served together and had shared almost identical experiences from Ypres to the Somme, in a spell of over two years.

We first came together at Weymouth when we were nearing the end of our training, which was completed at Lydd. Then we went out to France with the 106 Battery and, after eighteen months, we were both transferred to 264 Battery; the complement of this latter Battery consisted of troops newly arrived from England.

For the rest of our time, until May, 1918, we continued to serve together, until May 9th when we both became victims of serious mustard gassing.

Since our recent meeting, we learned from each other that we were both taken to the same Base Hospital, but there we were separated. He was taken to Sheffield whilst I was taken to a London hospital.

We never knew anything of each other from that time until forty and a half years later, when the chance meeting by the kiosk took place.

Of course, I wrote to my home to say that I had met an old pal of "our" war days. In the reply letter from my home was enclosed a cutting from the *Daily Express* for Tuesday, November 25th. For that very day my star, "Virgo," foretold the following: "This morning you will meet an old friend. It will be a heart-warming day."

I wonder if there are any other cases similar to this one experienced by David Hatter and myself.

*Ashton-in-Makerfield.*

JIM SHAW.

## The Sutton Club

There is just room to say that we had a very good meeting on November 29th, when we concluded the play-offs for the Sir Arthur Pearson prizes.

On December 20th, we hold our closing meeting of the year and I can now give you the date of the A.G.M., which is January 24th, 1959.

Good health, good luck,

Your Chairman,

TED DUDLEY.



## "Covered With Money"

It sounds somewhat incredible and far-fetched, but in the main it is nevertheless true. It happened while I was in the United States as a member of the A.B.F.B., the American, British, French and Belgian "Permanent Blind" War Relief Fund. In addition to making speeches, attending receptions and interviewing numbers of people who called at the offices of the Fund, my wife and I were present at most of the great Allied Bazaars that were held in New York, Chicago, Boston and Detroit. The first of these bazaars was held early in June, 1916, in the Central Palace Gardens, New York City. My wife and I were present when the death of Lord Kitchener came through, and it was most impressive when the vast crowd went suddenly silent.

The A.B.F.B. occupied a stall in the Bazaar, presided over by my wife and a group of very pretty young New York society girls, who distributed pamphlets describing the objects of the A.B.F.B. I sat at the end of a table which had a large collection box near me. Any visitor to the Bazaar who wished to come inside the stall to speak to me had to place a donation in the box. I used to make string bags to pass the time away. Twice daily, once in the forenoon and again in the evening, I made a tour of the building, accompanied by two of the young ladies from the stall. I generally wore "undress uniform" and attracted quite a lot of attention. On one of these parades, a Mr. Walter Scott, a business man on Broadway, shook hands and pinned a ten dollar bill on the peak of my Glengarry cap. Other people followed suit and by the time I returned to our stall I was literally "covered with money." My cap was soon covered right down to the end of the cap ribbons, across my shoulders and back, down my arms and the legs of my trousers. All the "green-backs" of the dollar bills were facing outwards so that I looked like an overgrown prize turkey. This decorative method of collecting dollars occurred on several occasions in New York and Chicago. In the latter city, on one occasion, I had twenty pounds in dollars pinned on my Glengarry. I received many pinpricks but I came to no harm.

R. MIDDLEMISS.

P.S. It was 60 years on October 1st last, since I enlisted in the Army.

## "Life At My Fingertips"

St. Dunstaners know for themselves how splendidly their own deaf comrades have overcome their double handicap.

A book has just been published, "Life at My Fingertips," which is the story of Robert Smithdas, who lost his sight and hearing when he was only five. To-day, in his early thirties, he holds a Master's degree of New York University and fills a responsible position in which he travels the United States, giving lectures on behalf of the deaf and blind.

We can only give briefly his amazing career.

He went first to a School for the Blind where he was introduced to the manual alphabet, and the most momentous step in his life was taken when he was sent on a scholarship to Perkins, the famous school in Boston for educating blind and deaf-blind children.

At Perkins, Robert learnt new techniques. He had to give up using the manual alphabet and was initiated into the Tadoma method of lip reading, learning to think in terms of vibration. His studies were wide and varied. He made excellent progress and was equally good at sports.

When he was twenty he graduated from Perkins and went on to the Industrial Home for the Blind in Brooklyn. After less than a year at the Industrial Home, it was decided that he could go on to St. John's University in Brooklyn. Much more was at stake than the success or failure of an individual, for only one deaf-blind person had passed through college before, and that was Helen Keller, fifty years earlier.

A search for a student companion resulted in Johnny Spainer, a high-school graduate, accepting the task, and he was to spend the next nine years at Robert's side.

Gradually they settled into the college routine and after years of intensive work, Robert graduated with honours. His college days were over, he was a national celebrity. In 1952 he received his Master's degree from New York University as a specialist in the field of vocational rehabilitation for the handicapped.

The full story of Robert Smithdas's achievements is told in his autobiography, "Life at My Fingertips," published by Elek Books, Limited, 18s.

(This notice is not in the Braille REVIEW, but will appear next month.—Ed.)

## Ovingdean Notes

Commandant, Matron and Staff at the Brighton Homes send their greetings to all St. Dunstaners throughout the country and wish them a very happy Christmas and New Year.

At Ovingdean we shall look forward to welcoming a large number of men to us for Christmas and it is nice to know that once again the girls will be at Port Hall in full force. We hope, too, that a record number of local St. Dunstaners will come along to Ovingdean for one or other of the entertainments which are being arranged for Christmas week.

We should like to tell you that the Chapel collections at Ovingdean during this year have been distributed to the following organisations:—

Pearson's Fresh Air Fund ... £10

St. Matthew's Church Comforts Fund £10

Tarner Home, Brighton ... £15

Brighton & Hove Girls' Orphanage £15

November and December always herald two events most popular with local St. Dunstaners. The first, the dinner and dance arranged under the terms of the will of the late Mrs. M. Pittman, took place at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on November 4th and the second, the Brighton, Hove & District Grocers' Association Christmas Party, was also held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton. On this occasion, we are told, some 450 people were entertained by the Association, including representatives from a number of Grocers' Associations in the South of England. The local branch was responsible for all the arrangements, and most generous was their hospitality to St. Dunstan's. Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., in replying to the toast proposed by Mr. Wenham (President of the local Grocers' Association) of "Our Guests," referred to this wonderfully kind generosity and hospitality always extended to St. Dunstan's, since the first contingent after World War I began coming to Brighton. Through their warm-hearted friendliness St. Dunstan's Home at Portland Place (now called Pearson House) had been provided and, added Sir Neville, "They found a quiet haven and protection from the storm of life in that home—St. Dunstan's owes undying gratitude to the Grocers' Association for their past and ever present kindnesses."

Later in the evening the Mayor and Mayoress of Hove (Councillor and Mrs.

Nixon) joined the party in the Ballroom where dancing was taking place to the music of Percy Warden and the Grand Hotel Orchestra.

Now we are getting ready for Christmas here at Brighton. Just a reminder to those of you coming down here—there will be a Fancy Dress Dance on Boxing Day and prizes for the best costumes—so come along with plenty of good ideas.

## Family News

Daphne Rutledge, Belfast, has passed her Senior Certificate with two credits and passes in six subjects; her sister Lucinda, who is at Stranmillis Training College, has been awarded an extension of her three years' course so that she will be qualified to teach in a Secondary Modern School.

★ ★ ★

The daughter of P. Long, of Ballincollig, Co. Cork, is a good linguist, and her work for a Dublin Travel Agency often takes her abroad. She is at present in Spain.

★ ★ ★

Cedric Langton, of Bottesford, had his School Colours for Junior Cricket last season and is also a good footballer.

★ ★ ★

Imelda Spring, Chessington, is only fourteen, but has already passed an examination in the Preliminary Course of Home Nursing, St. John Ambulance Association. She spends her spare time helping at the Surbiton Eye Hospital.

## Marriages of Sons and Daughters

On September 13th, in Bristol, Sylvia Morgan, Stroud, to Robert Dymond.

On November 22nd, Pamela Woodget, Winton, Bournemouth, to Leonard Allbut.

On December 8th, Edward Robinson, Cookstown.

## Deaths

Our deep sympathy goes out this month to the following:—

BALL.—To J. Ball, of Gateshead, whose brother died on November 22nd. Our sympathy also goes to Mrs. Ball, his sister-in-law. Our St. Dunstaner lived with his brother and his wife.

McCREA.—To H. G. McCrea, of Belfast, whose mother died on December 3rd.

SHEARN.—To R. Shearn, of Bridgwater, whose wife died on November 7th.



## “In Memory”

### Driver Jenkin Lewis, M.M., *Royal Field Artillery*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of J. Lewis, of Gabalfa, Cardiff. He was 66.

He served from his enlistment in September, 1914, until May, 1919, but did not come to St. Dunstan's until as recently as August, 1957. He had been engaged in Welfare work prior to this and his age prevented him undertaking any training with us.

Our deep sympathy is sent to his widow and married daughter.

### Corporal Percy James Sparkes, *Royal Field Artillery*

With deep regret we record the death of P. J. Sparkes, of Grimsby, at the age of 72.

He had enlisted in 1904, and was wounded in France in April, 1917, he came to St. Dunstan's the following year. He was one of our first physiotherapists and he carried on in his profession until his retirement in 1953. He had been in poor health for some time and had been taken to hospital, where he died on November 22nd.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Sparkes and her married daughter.

### Private R. Clark McNeil, *Royal Scots Regiment*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of R. Clark McNeil, of Haddington, East Lothian. He was 74.

He served with the regiment from May, 1916, until his discharge in November, 1918. He entered St. Dunstan's in May, 1932, but since he had for many years helped to run the family business, he had not come to us for actual training. The business was disposed of in 1946. In May of last year he entered hospital, and following an operation had not been in good health. He died on December 3rd. Prior to his illness, he had been a keen and active member of the local Burns Society.

He lived with his sister, and to her and to the other members of his family our deep sympathy is sent.

### John Louis Ferry, *52nd Canadian Infantry*

We have also heard with deep regret of the death of J. L. Ferry, which occurred on December 4th, 1957, at the age of 63.

He enlisted with the Canadian Forces in September, 1917, and was wounded a year later. In January, 1919, he came to St. Dunstan's and after training in shorthand, typewriting and netting, he returned to Canada in June, 1920. He recommenced his studies at College and obtained a diploma for a B.A. Degree in June the following year.

He was a single man.

### Ernest Henry Maisey, *Hong Kong Dockyard Defence Corps*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of E. H. Maisey, of Honicknowle, Plymouth. He was 63.

He was discharged from the service in December, 1945, and was admitted to St. Dunstan's benefits in November, 1952, but although he completed hobby training and was a very good mat-maker, he did not take up this work actively. Instead, he concentrated on making historical notes on East Cornwall, helped by his typewriting and braille knowledge; he was well-known to the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association, in which he took an active interest.

He leaves a widow and married daughter to whom our sincere sympathy is sent.

### A. E. Johns, *53rd Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

### Bertie Johnston, *Australian Forces*

### G. J. Morrell, *11th Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

### George C. Wasson, *Royal Australian Navy*

### Walter West, *56th Bn. Australian Imperial Forces*

We have heard with deep regret of the deaths of the above Australian St. Dunstaners.

A. E. Johns, of Kingsfield, New South Wales, who was a widower, died on August 27th, 1957, and Bertie Johnston, also of New South Wales, died in July of this year. Writing at Christmas time he had told us that his health was not good.

G. J. Morrell, of Collie, Western Australia, was wounded at Gallipoli and was paralysed. He had been bedridden for many years.

George C. Wasson, of Sutherland, New South Wales, served with the Royal Australian Navy. He died on April 14th and our deep sympathy goes out to his widow and her son.

Walter West, of Sydney, New South Wales, died on November 9th, 1957. He left a widow and our deep sympathy is sent to her.













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